# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
1 February 2010—10 February 2010

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP, June 2007)

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First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Lord President of the Council—The Rt. Hon. Lord Mandelson

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Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt. Hon. John Denham, MP

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- Minister for Science and Innovation—The Rt. Hon. Lord Drayson §
- Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination—The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)* §
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    Dan Norris, MP
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Solicitor-General—Vera Baird, QC, MP

Advocate-General for Scotland—The Lord Davidson of Glen Clova, QC

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Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality—The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP §

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Minister of State—The Rt. Hon. Sadiq Khan, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
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Chancellor of the Exchequer—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP

Chief Secretary—The Rt. Hon. Liam Byrne, MP

Financial Secretary—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, MP §

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Economic Secretary—Ian Pearson, MP

Exchequer Secretary—Sarah McCarthy-Fry, MP

Parliamentary Secretary—The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)*

Financial Services Secretary—The Lord Myners, CBE

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Dave Watts, MP
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Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—
Wayne David, MP

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Ministers of State—
Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform—The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)*
Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society—Angela Eagle, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
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Helen Goodman, MP
The Lord McKenzie of Luton §

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Lord Steward—The Earl of Dalhousie

Master of the Horse—The Rt. Hon. Lord Vestey, KCVO

Treasurer—The Rt. Hon. Thomas McAvoy, MP

Comptroller—The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP

Vice-Chamberlain—Helen Jones, MP

Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms—The Lord Bassam of Brighton

Captain of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard—The Rt. Hon. Lord Davies of Oldham §

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Baronesses in Waiting—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Thornton, The Baroness Crawley

§ *Members of the Government with responsibilities in more than one area*

* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

*Full list:*

**Ministers for the English Regions—**
Ian Austin, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)
Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)
The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
Phil Woolas, MP (Minister for the North West)

Second Church Estates Commissioner, Representing Church Commissioners—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

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First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Sylvia Heal, MP

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Assistant Secretary—Robert Cope

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Secretary of the Audit Committee—Hannah White, PhD

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Speaker's Secretary—Angus Sinclair

Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter

Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Canon Robert Wright

Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

*1 February 2010*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 1 February 2010*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Control Orders (Lord Carlile's Fifth Report)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** In accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed the report on the operation of the Act in 2009, which will be laid before the House today. I am also laying before the House the Government's memorandum to the House Affairs Committee on post-legislative scrutiny of the Act.

## JUSTICE

### Women's Diversionary Fund

**The Minister of State, Department of Justice (Maria Eagle):** Two years ago I announced our commitment to a fundamental change in how the criminal justice system deals with women. In December last year we reported on the substantial progress made through the Government's strategy to divert women away from crime.

Today, I am announcing the creation of a Women's Diversionary Fund, a £2 million joint funding venture between the Ministry of Justice and the Corston Independent Funders' Coalition. The Women's Diversionary Fund will offer grants of up to two years and will assist us in consolidating good progress and in taking forward our strategy to divert women from crime, and reduce reoffending.

This exciting partnership between the Ministry of Justice and the alliance of charitable trusts forming the coalition represents a commitment on both sides to transform further the way women are treated by the criminal justice system. By working together in this exceptional way we will build on the initiatives already announced.

The fund will focus on:

service development or continuation, meeting gaps and further developing services; and

building organisational capacity.

This new initiative will support further growth in community services for women and contribute to building the confidence of courts in alternatives to custody.

### Interpreters (Expenditure)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** Errors have been identified in the written answers given by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) to the hon. Members for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, c. 1270-71W and for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, c. 640-41W and by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, c. 955-56W and the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, c. 337W on the subject of interpreters expenditure.

All the information the Ministry of Justice holds on interpreters expenditure is provided in the table below. I have written to the Members who received incomplete information and provided them with a full response.

Expenditure on interpreters in England and Wales by the Department and its agencies:

*The Expenditure for Financial Years 2007-08 and 2008-09*

| | *To the nearest £ 000*<br>*2008-09* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Justice HQ | 26 | 19 |
| HM Courts Service (HMCS) | 638 | 704 |
| HMCS Crown Courts paid from Central Fund Budget | 4,503 | 4,034 |
| Tribunals Service | 5,283 | 6,126 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 40 | 40 |
| National Offenders Management Service[1] | 966 | 868 |
| Total | 11,456 | 11,791 |

[1] This figure includes translation costs as well as interpretation costs. The amounts are not separately recorded and can only be disaggregated at disproportionate costs.

The information in the table excludes the following expenditure:

It is not possible separately to identify expenditure on interpreters by magistrates courts from other magistrates court costs financed from the Central Fund Budget without incurring the disproportionate cost of examining every transaction, the supporting records for which are held locally. Sample exercises have been undertaken in the past to estimate the proportion of magistrates court expenditure that relates to interpreters but they have yielded inconsistent results.

The NOMS figure excludes expenditure by the National Probation Service which is held locally by 42 probation boards and trusts who use separate and different accounting systems. Information could only be determined at disproportionate cost through examination of local records.

*Suspects, charged individuals and victims*

Her Majesty's Courts Service meets interpreters' costs for victims, which are provided above. The police meet interpreters' costs for suspects and charged individuals. Police costs are funded by the Home Office.

## TRANSPORT

### Transport Security

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> I would like to update the House on one of the specific decisions made by the Government following the recent review of aviation security—the introduction of advanced imaging technology (AIT), also known as body scanners at UK airports.

The requirement to deploy AIT machines at Heathrow and Manchester airports comes into effect today and I expect additional scanners to be deployed at these airports and to be introduced at Birmingham airport over the course of this month. This will be followed by a nationwide roll-out of scanners in the coming months. These scanners are designed to give airport security staff a much better chance of detecting explosives or other potentially harmful items hidden on a passenger's body.

The Department for Transport has introduced an interim code of practice covering privacy, health and safety, data protection and equality issues. The code will require airports to undertake scanning sensitively, having regard to the rights of passengers. This is available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website.

Given the current security threat level, the Government believe it essential to start introducing scanners immediately. However, I wish to consult widely on the long-term regime for their use, taking full account of the experience of the initial deployment. The Department will, therefore, shortly be launching a full public consultation on the requirements relating to the use of scanners as set out in the interim code of practice and will consider all representations carefully before preparing a final code of practice later in the year. I am grateful for the representations already received from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

In the immediate future, only a small proportion of airline passengers will be selected for scanning. If a passenger is selected for scanning, and declines, they will not be permitted to fly. However, the interim code of practice stipulates:

> "Passengers must not be selected on the basis of personal characteristics, that is; on a basis that may constitute discrimination such as gender, age, race or ethnic origin".

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 2 February 2010*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant):** The General Affairs Council (GAC) and Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) were held on 25 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

#### General Affairs Council

The full text of conclusions adopted, including 'A' points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/Renaff/112563.pdf

*Spanish Presidency programme*

Spain (Moratinos) presented the priorities for their presidency, including economic recovery and sustainable growth, the post-Lisbon 2020 strategy, and climate change. We welcome the Spanish presidency's choice of priorities, in particular the focus on economic recovery with a low carbon, social agenda at its core.

#### Foreign Affairs Council

The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/112569.pdf

*Haiti*

High Representative Ashton and the Commission (De Gucht) debriefed Ministers on their respective visits to the US and Haiti, following the emergency Foreign Affairs Council on 18 January. The High Representative paid tribute to the large-scale and well co-ordinated response by member states and Commission, and noted that the EU needed to work closely with the UN on next steps.

The Commission reported that the aid effort appeared well ordered and well co-ordinated under UN leadership; an EU reconnaissance mission would travel to Haiti in the next week to assess governance needs; and the Commission had made available €100 million (£87.6 million) to respond to these non-humanitarian, immediate needs.

The Foreign Secretary welcomed these efforts to rebuild the Haitian Government and urged consideration of wider regional needs, particularly those of the Dominican Republic. In response to proposals from some member states to create a permanent EU body that could react quickly to disasters, the Foreign Minister suggested that the EU should analyse lessons learned from Haiti before drawing any conclusions on possible new permanent structures. The High Representative agreed. In the short-term, Ministers agreed to establish a small cell of officials in Brussels to co-ordinate military and civil deployments to Haiti, while leaving open the possibility of moving it to the field at a later date.

*Afghanistan/Pakistan*

The Foreign Secretary presented the UK's aims for the London conference on 28 January—to align the international community behind a clear political strategy to help President Karzai deliver the ambitious agenda he set out at his inauguration last November. Discussion would focus on the key themes of security, development and governance and the regional framework/international architecture. He emphasised that EU support would be essential to secure a strong communiqué, and hoped that the EU would prioritise work to upgrade the delivery of its civilian effort, including through swift implementation of the EU action plan for Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Minister also stressed that Pakistan was a priority too: the upcoming summit would be key to EU-Pakistan relations and the EU should encourage Pakistan to work with it to develop a five-year engagement plan.

The High Representative praised the momentum that the London conference would create behind the EU's efforts in Afghanistan and promised that the EU would play a full part. She acknowledged member states' support for a quick decision on double-hatting and said that the EU would be ready in principle to contribute to a reintegration fund.

*Yemen*

I briefed EU colleagues on the objectives of the high-level meeting in London on 27 January. Ministers agreed conclusions, which the Government support. The conclusions welcomed the London meeting; reaffirmed the EU's commitment to a unified, stable, democratic and prosperous Yemen, and recalled its commitment to support the Government of Yemen in confronting the challenges it faces through a comprehensive approach. The conclusions also called on the Government of Yemen to continue with political and economic reforms.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Ministers adopted conclusions on EUFOR Operation Althea, which the Government support. The Council decided to start providing non-executive capacity-building and training support, within the framework of the operation, noted that the executive mandate will continue in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1895 (2009) and expressed the EU's readiness to maintain an executive military role beyond 2010, should the situation require it, under a UN mandate. The Council also declared strong support for the High Representative/EUSR Valentin Inzko.

Ministers also discussed the wider political situation. The Foreign Secretary argued that the EU needed to maintain a patient, strategic approach throughout 2010. The High Representative concluded that it was important not to do anything that damaged the current situation; that the EU should continue to work with the Bosnian authorities on visa liberalisation and prepare carefully for the elections, working to engage with ordinary people and making clear what the EU could offer.

*Iran*

Ministers discussed next steps on the nuclear issue and reviewed the Iranian response to engagement by the E3+3. The Foreign Secretary argued that, in view of Iran's continued non-compliance with UN resolutions, the EU should continue to pursue all aspects of the international community's dual-track approach. The

High Representative concluded that unless Iran complied with its obligations to the international community, the EU had to be prepared to act.

*Somalia*

Ministers adopted conclusions, which the Government support, agreeing to set up a common defence and security policy (CSDP) mission to train the transitional federal Government's security forces in Uganda from spring 2010, while recognising the need to address key issues before the launch of the mission, such as vetting and monitoring of trainees, and payment of their salaries following completion of training.

On Operation Atalanta, the High Representative noted the need to reinforce regional capacity to prosecute suspected pirates, and said that she was working closely on this with regional partners. The Commission noted the possibility of further financial support for piracy-related capacity-building via the Africa Peace Facility and Stability Instrument.

*AOB: Ukraine*

Poland raised the need to send clear messages to Ukraine about the importance of high standards in the second round of polling in the presidential elections in February, and to engage with the new leadership thereafter. The High Representative noted that the FAC would return to this issue next month.

A POINTS

The Council adopted the following conclusions or decisions without discussion:

Conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina: Operation Althea.

Conclusions on Somalia Training Mission.

Conclusions on Yemen.

## JUSTICE

### Service Personnel (Inquests)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), the Minister responsible for the armed forces, and I wish to make the latest in the series of quarterly statements to the House about the inquests of service personnel and others who have died overseas. We continue to hold in the highest possible regard all of our service personnel who are or have been involved in the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our deepest sympathies lie, of course, with the families of those personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It is again a cause of particular sadness that since our last statement a further 28 service personnel have lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 7WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 25 January.

The tables which accompany this statement again include information about those cases which involve a board of inquiry or a service inquiry.

*Progress with inquests*

At the time of the last statement, we reported that up to 16 October 260 inquests had been held since June 2006: 246 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham between March 2003 and July 2005.

Since 16 October a further 19 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 279 inquests held since June 2006.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 303 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including five service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We remain deeply grateful for the efforts of all of the coroners who are involved in conducting these inquests, and totally committed in our support for the independent coronial system.

Our Departments continue to work closely together, and with the coroners, to review the way in which the system is working and to look for opportunities, prior to the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, to make improvements for the benefit of the bereaved families.

*Open inquests*

*i Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities*

There are no outstanding pre-March 31 2007 inquests in the Oxfordshire coroner's district.

*ii Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities*

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests does not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon district (since 1 April 2007 fatalities have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham). The coroner transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible. It is helpful that the district continues to benefit from the experience and expertise of David Masters, who retired as coroner on 31 March 2009 but has been appointed as an assistant deputy coroner by his successor, David Ridley.

There are 113 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007 (55 involving deaths in the last six months). Of these, Mr. Ridley has retained 56 inquests, whilst 53 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin, and four inquest transfers are pending. At 25 January, two recent fatalities had been repatriated but the inquests were yet to be opened. Two recent fatalities awaited repatriation and inquest opening. Hearing dates have been set in 20 cases.

*ii. Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured*

There remain eight inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

## TRANSPORT

### Motorway Speed Limits (Commercial Vehicles)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark):** The Department has today issued a consultation document on proposals to vary the motorway speed limits for certain classes of commercial vehicles. Under the proposals, the maximum speed limit for HGVs not exceeding 7.5 tonnes would be reduced from 70 mph to 60 mph. The change would also see the maximum speed limit for passenger carrying vehicles adapted to carry more than eight passengers (PCVs) and not exceeding 12 metres in length reduced from 70 mph to 65 mph; and, the limit for longer PCVs increased from 60 mph to 65 mph.

I have placed copies of the document in the House Library.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### "Building a Society for All Ages"

**The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle):** I am pleased to announce the publication today of "Building a Society for All Ages—consultation response".

In July 2009, we published "Building a Society for All Ages", the Government's strategy for addressing the opportunities and challenges of our ageing society. This sets out the changes we all need to make to adapt to the fact that we are all living longer and provides a co-ordinated package of strategic reforms to enable people to prepare for and live well in later life. The strategy was subject to a full formal public consultation, running from July to October 2009.

As part of the consultation process we organised events across the country to hear peoples' views and experiences as well as seeking feedback by online responses and via the post. We received 345 written responses and around 600 people participated in discussion events.

Today we are publishing a summary of what we have heard both in written responses to the consultation questions and at consultation events. It also provides an update on how the initiatives set out in the strategy have developed as a result of this feedback.

Key developments are aimed at driving changes in attitudes towards older people and improving service delivery. We have now co-produced A Good Place to Grow Older—a National Commitment with national bodies which represent a whole range of local service deliverers and key Government Departments. The Commitment sets out a number of specific pledges which its signatories have committed to adopt and translate into action to deliver the strategy at a local level.

In January, we launched the £2.9 million "Get Digital" programme which will soon provide around 7,800 people in sheltered housing with access to computers and the training they need to make the most of the new technology on offer.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 3 February 2010*

## TREASURY

### Terrorist Asset Freezing

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** Following the Supreme Court's decision in relation to the Government's asset-freezing powers, I announced the Treasury's intention to consider fast-track legislation to reinstate the asset-freezing regime.

It is our intention to introduce legislation that effectively reinstates the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009, which the Government have in the past used in good faith. It is our belief that the fast-track legislation would be a proper response to the ongoing significant threat from international terrorism.

In order for the House to give adequate scrutiny to the proposed legislation, copies of the 2009 Order are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Library. Copies of the legislation itself will be available immediately on the introduction of the Bill. Our ambition is to mirror the 2009 Order in the legislation we present to the House.

The Government also intend to bring forward affirmative procedure regulations under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to ensure that enforcement provisions are in place to implement fully EC Regulation 881/2002 in respect of measures against al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Taken together, the Government believe that these measures will help maintain an effective, proportionate and fair terrorist asset-freezing regime that meets our United Nations obligations, protects national security by disrupting flows of terrorist finance, and safeguards human rights.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Service Compensation Scheme

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell):** I am pleased to inform the House that the Government have now finalised terms for reform of the civil service compensation scheme and that we have agreed these terms with the FDA, Prospect, the GMB, Unite and the Prison Officers' Association.

The CSCS sets out the terms which departments may use on redundancy or voluntary exits. In reforming the scheme we have a number of objectives:

First, we wish to be certain that the scheme represents value for money for the taxpayer and delivers the £500 million saving set out by the Prime Minister in his written ministerial statement of 31 March 2009.

Secondly, we need to ensure that the scheme both does not create perverse incentives through awarding excessively generous payments to some individuals on redundancy, and complies with age discrimination legislation by ensuring that the level of severance payments awarded is primarily linked to length of service, not to age.

Thirdly, we need to ensure the reforms provide additional protection to the lowest paid staff.

Cabinet Office officials have held numerous meetings with the civil service unions since July 2008. We consulted fully on the provisional proposals that the Cabinet Office published in "Fairness For All" on 31 July 2009, receiving over 18,000 comments in response. I met with the civil service unions on 22 September as part of that process.

In our response to the consultation, on 4 December 2009 we modified our original proposals to reflect the comments we had received. There were two issues that came through particularly strongly in the responses to the consultation and in my meeting with the unions. These were, the need to ensure that the lowest paid workers with long service could still access up to three years' pay in compensation on redundancy, and the need to preserve the option of access to an unreduced pension on redundancy for those close to pension age.

I met with the unions again on 17 December to discuss our revised proposals. I asked Cabinet Office officials to have further meetings with the unions in order to see if it were possible to reach agreement within the parameters of the principles that have been established.

Following these discussions, I am pleased that we have reached agreement with five of the six main civil service unions on a modified set of proposals. Unite, the GMB, Prospect, the Prison Officers' Association, and the FDA have agreed that these terms represent a fair deal for their members. Together, these five unions represent a cross section of civil service staff across all grades, ages and professions. The sixth and largest union PCS has not agreed the terms, but its members, along with all other civil servants, will be subject to the settlement with the implementation of the amending order.

The new terms provide added protection, enabling the lowest paid to continue to receive a service-related redundancy payment of up to three years' pay, up to a maximum of £60,000. As in our earlier proposals, payments will be capped at a maximum of two years' pay for higher earners. The added protection for the lowest paid means that those earning under £20,000 will not be affected by the new cap limiting severance payments to two years' pay, while those earning between £20,000 and £30,000 will be eligible for severance payments of up to between two and three years' pay.

We have also agreed some further transitional protection for existing staff. If made compulsorily redundant, staff aged at least 50 as of 31 March 2010–and with a minimum of five years' service–will continue to receive existing compulsory retirement terms. This means they will continue to receive an early, enhanced pension based on their years of service as at 31 March 2010, thus providing a significant level of further protection, for those closest to retirement, from the position reached in December.

A relatively small number of civil servants, who joined the civil service before 1987, are currently eligible for a reserved right severance payment. Here, we have modified our earlier proposals so that if made compulsorily redundant, these staff would receive a severance payment based on their years of service as at 31 March 2010, with the cash value tapered to become equivalent in value to the new terms within 3 to 4 years.

We consider that the package of changes addresses concerns raised in the consultation and provides a fair deal both for civil servants and the taxpayer.

I will lay the scheme amendments before Parliament by the end of this week so as to implement the changes to the CSCS from 1 April 2010.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Private Rented Sector

**The Minister for Housing (John Healey):** I am today publishing a policy statement, "The Private Rented Sector: Professionalism and Quality: consultation responses and next steps". This sets out a summary of responses to our consultation document, "The Private Rented Sector: Professionalism and Quality—the Government response to the Rugg Review", published on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 50WS and reported to the House by the then Minister for Housing, my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett). The document that I am publishing today sets out Government's plans following the responses to that consultation. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government want to see a private rented sector which offers high-quality accommodation, and in which tenants can make choices based on clear information about their options, their rights, and their responsibilities. We also want to ensure tenants know where to turn if things go wrong. At the same time, Government want to increase professionalism in the private rented sector—supporting good landlords and agents, while driving out the worst practices of the sector that fail tenants and damage its reputation.

Alongside our longer-term plans for legislation to improve standards, today's document sets out our proposals to provide better help and support to tenants now. This includes a commitment to set up, by the summer of this year, a dedicated helpline for private sector tenants working with voluntary sector agencies, and an online consumer feedback website working with consumer focus.

Our consultation document, published in May 2008, set out a range of proposals to support a higher-quality, more professional sector, while minimising the regulatory burden on good landlords and agents. The proposals included a national register of landlords for England; full regulation for private sector letting and managing agents; and encouragement to local authorities to create "local lettings agencies".

Consultation responses were strongly supportive of the proposals, although there were some concerns about specific details, and about implementation. Alongside the formal consultation, Government worked with a wide range of organisations on the development of detailed policy to underpin the proposals.

Our statement today reflects those consultation responses and the contribution of these work groups. It confirms the issues on which our intentions are now firm, as well as the detailed issues on which there is further work to do with interested stakeholders. In particular the statement includes commitments to:

> Establish a national register of landlords, to protect tenants and support local authority enforcement activity. We will carry out further detailed work with stakeholders to assess whether the register could also be used (either from the outset, or in the future) to apply registration conditions on persistently poor landlords.
>
> Introduce full regulation of letting and managing agents. We will carry out further detailed work with stakeholders on the exact form of regulation, and whether it is led by an independent regulator, or by industry bodies.
>
> Require all tenancies to take the form of a written agreement.
>
> Increase the limit for assured shorthold tenancies from £25,000 a year to £100,000. This will reduce the number of tenants (up to 150,000 at present) who do not currently have the protection of an assured shorthold tenancy, and associated protections—such as the requirement to protect a tenant's deposit.

We remain committed to legislating at the earliest opportunity on these commitments to increase the protection and practical help available to tenants in the private rented sector.

These measures are complemented by the Government consultation, published by the Treasury—"Investing in the UK Private Rented Sector"—also published today, which considers whether there are any substantive barriers to investment in the sector by individuals and institutions. Taken together, steps to raise quality and identify any barriers to investment should reinforce each other and create a better private rented sector that can become the tenure of choice for a wider range of people.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biomass and Grandfathering

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney):** My noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord Hunt, today made the following statement:

> The UK is committed to a massive expansion of renewable energy and a thriving, bioenergy industry is key to our goals. Indeed, bioenergy could supply up to half of our renewable energy needs by 2020—for heat, electricity and transport. Used wisely, energy from biomass will reduce $CO_2$ emissions, make our energy supplies more secure, and create new industries and green jobs.
>
> Biomass offers wider gains too. Over the next decade it can replace petrochemicals as the source of chemicals and other high-value products, as well as energy. Increasingly, the fuel for the new bio-economy will be waste materials, including municipal waste diverted from landfill.
>
> Biomass supplies will need to increase significantly to deliver the step change we want and in the short-term at least we will be reliant on imports. It is essential that those supplies are sustainable. The Government are determined to ensure that biomass, whether imported or produced in the UK:
>
> delivers real and substantive $CO_2$ savings;
>
> uses land responsibly avoiding damaging land use change; and
>
> does not undermine global food supplies or inflate prices.
>
> We are working hard for global sustainability standards on this basis; and we will ensure that these principles are applied to biomass used to generate energy in the UK. We will implement the sustainability criteria set within the renewable energy directive

for biofuels and bioliquids and are pushing for early resolution within the EU of how to deal with indirect land use change effects.

With sensible, robust controls in place, the UK has a lot to gain from biomass energy. I am informed by industry that they expect to be able to deliver 5GW of dedicated biomass, energy from waste, gasification and anaerobic digestion projects over the next few years—some £13 billion worth of investment. And industry wish to ensure that developers have a stable regime in which to invest.

To help achieve this, I propose to look again at one aspect of support for biomass electricity under the renewables obligation. With most technologies our policy is not, as a rule, to change the level of renewables obligation certificate (ROC) support once a generating station is accredited by Ofgem—that is, support is "grandfathered". This is not currently the case for biomass. I am aware our current policy not to grandfather the support given for biomass electricity under the renewables obligation has caused significant investment concerns within the industry. We made the decision not to grandfather biomass in 2008 due to the fact that unlike other technologies supported by the renewables obligation, biomass electricity generation faces ongoing fuel costs which are subject to market fluctuation in an immature market. We recognised the need for flexibility to consider the impact on biomass prices when setting the banding levels, and that led to increased support for all biomass generators, not just new entrants, on the introduction of banding as a result. In fact, we doubled support for AD and dedicated biomass with (CHP).

The feed-in-tariffs for small-scale electricity, announced on 1 February, include tariffs for anaerobic digestion of 11.5 p per kw/h up to 500kW and 9 p per kw/h between 500kW and 5MW. These tariffs are grandfathered, index-linked and will be available to generators accrediting at least until 2013. From 1 April this year, AD generators who need the security of a fixed rate for electricity they generate, will be able to choose to join the feed-in-tariff scheme rather than the renewables obligation. Given the risk that investment will not come forward, DECC will review the policy on grandfathering and prepare a statement before the end of March. This review will also consider what action the UK can take to introduce sustainability standards, following publication of the European Commission's report on biomass expected this February.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### UK Marine Science Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies):** The "UK Marine Science Strategy" has been published today by the Marine Science Co-ordination Committee. The strategy is the first of its kind for the UK and will help shape, support, co-ordinate and enable the delivery of world class marine science for the UK. Copies of the strategy will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## JUSTICE

### Legal Aid Reform

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

Between 16 July and 8 October 2009 the Ministry of Justice consulted on changes to legal aid funding rules. "Legal Aid: Refocusing on Priority Cases" set out a range of proposals to tighten the civil and criminal legal aid funding rules to target resources more effectively.

On 14 December the Department published its response on the proposal to remove advice to prisoners on treatment matters from the scope of criminal legal aid. In that response we set out that we would retain funding for serious treatment issues, but that this would be subject to approval from the Legal Services Commission on a case-by-case basis.

Today, the Department has published its response on the civil legal aid proposals set out in "Legal Aid: Refocusing on Priority Cases". Having taken into account the strong representations we received from interested parties, we will no longer be proceeding with some of the changes proposed, and others have been modified in response to stakeholder concerns. We intend to make a number of changes to civil legal aid to:

Improve the way that cases involving human rights or public interest are handled by transferring cases that depend on these issues to receive funding to a new committee for advice on their merits. This will help to ensure that legal aid is awarded to meritorious cases.

Ensure that cases granted legal aid on the basis that the proceedings will bring benefits to others have a realistic prospect of delivering such wider benefits.

Detect fraudulent legal aid applications earlier, by checking with the unfunded opponent to ensure that the applicant is financially eligible for legal aid, with safeguards for domestic violence or urgent cases.

Tighten the funding rules for granting legal aid for judicial review cases to ensure that funding is directed towards meritorious cases.

Restrict funding for low-value damages claims brought as part of a multi-party action. This will help to ensure that limited resources are available for higher-value cases, or cases brought by individuals.

Tighten access to civil legal aid in England and Wales for those who do not reside in the UK or associated territories, with safeguards for important human rights cases. Non-residents who are present will still have access to funding for asylum, immigration, domestic violence, child protection, mental health or capacity detention, and emergency housing cases.

Ensure that where legal aid funds a community action, the legal aid contribution mirrors the proportion of the affected population who are actually eligible for legal aid.

We intend to implement these changes in April, following Parliamentary consideration of the changes to the funding code and regulations. I have placed a copy of the consultation response in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Unimplemented Criminal Justice Provisions

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Claire Ward):** My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

In June of last year the noble Lord, Lord Patten asked the Government, via a parliamentary question, how many provisions of the 65 Criminal Justice Acts enacted since 1997 are not yet in force; and what those provisions are.

It has been necessary to conduct a detailed exercise in order to obtain the information to answer this question. I had anticipated that I would be in a position to provide this information by the end of last year and I apologise for the delay in responding. However, this exercise has now been completed and I am pleased to be able to respond to Lord Patten's request. Provisions contained within the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which received Royal Assent on the final day of the Fourth Session, have not been considered as part of this exercise.

Other than the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, 19 Acts containing criminal justice provisions have been enacted since 1997 for which the Ministry of Justice has responsibility, either in full or in part. Of these 19 Acts of Parliament, 68 of the sections for which the Ministry of Justice has policy responsibility currently remain unimplemented, either in full or in part and 25 of the schedules to these Acts are yet to be commenced in full or in part. A full list of provisions is contained within the table below.

Of the unimplemented provisions, many are minor, consequential or transitional provisions, for example all of the unimplemented paragraphs in schedule 7 to the Criminal Justice and Courts Services Act 2000. Of the remaining unimplemented provisions there are valid reasons for the delay as is illustrated by the examples set out below:

The majority of unimplemented provisions are contained within the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and relate to sentencing policy including the legal framework for custody plus (sections 181 and 188 and linked provisions in sections 280-83 and schedules 10, 11, 26 and 27)—a sentence which allows an offender to serve both a short custodial sentence and then be supervised in the community afterwards. Resource constraints have meant that we have been unable thus far to implement custody plus and there is no prospect of doing so in the near future. However, we are keen to explore options to support offenders released from short term custody. There is already provision for resettlement for offenders released after short custodial sentences, notably through the Home Office's drug interventions programme partnership with prison teams, and other locally supported schemes.

The majority of the unimplemented provisions contained within the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 relate to the appointment of a Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses. A recruitment campaign conducted in 2006 failed to identify a suitable candidate for this role. Changes were made in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to re-shape the role of the Commissioner, reflecting developments in the provision of support and services to victims and witnesses since the 2004 legislation. The Coroners and Justice Act recently received Royal Assent on 12 November and we have now launched the recruitment for a Victims' Commissioner for which the 2004 Act provisions as amended will be commenced. We intend to commence the provisions in early February and aim to make an appointment soon after.

Section 10 of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 provides for courts to impose a publicity order, requiring the organisation to publicise details of its conviction and fine. As publicity orders are an entirely new disposal, commencement has been delayed until supporting guidelines are available for the courts. The Sentencing Guidelines Council published a consultation guideline on 27 October 2009 and a definitive guideline is likely to be ready early this year.

The majority of the provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 have been commenced but a few have not. For example, commencement of the offences of stirring up hatred on grounds of sexual orientation, contained within section 74 of and schedule 16 to this Act, has been delayed to ensure compliance with the e-commerce directive. This directive requires us to apply the offence to domestically established electronic service providers when they provide their services in other European economic area states. The necessary legislative changes to give us the powers we need in this respect were made by section 143 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. That section came into force on Royal Assent. We will therefore proceed to implement the offence as soon as regulations are made to ensure that we meet the requirements of the directive.

A further example relates to section 39 of, and schedule 7 to, the 2008 Act which introduce youth default orders which will enable a court to impose an unpaid work requirement on a young offender (of the age of 16 or 17), a curfew requirement or an attendance centre requirement in lieu of an unpaid fine. These provisions are yet to be implemented due to resource constraints.

| *Act* | *Unimplemented Provision* |
|---|---|
| Crime and Disorder Act 1998 | Schedule 8 (Paragraphs 86 and 90) |
| Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 | Schedules 2 (Paragraphs 1-2, 3(10)(b), 5 and 15) and 4 (Paragraphs 1-3, 4(1) and (3), 21 and 24) |
| Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 | Sections 59 and 61 |
| | Schedule 7 (Paragraphs 5, 7-11, 15(1)(a)-(d),(f),(g), 16, 17, 18(1), (2), (3)(a), (b), (c)(ii), 20, 22(1)(a)-(d), (f), (g),23,24,25(1),(2),(3)(a),(b), (c)(ii),(4),27,29(1)(a)-(d),(f),(g), 30,31,32(1),(2),(3)(a),(b),(c)(ii), 33-36, 39, 54-56, 59, 60, 62-70, 73, 76, 98, 108, 109, 112-115, 119, 134, 149, 178, 180-188, 190-194, 197(a), (d),(e),201(2)(b),(3),202(2)(b), 203(5), 204 and 211) |
| Criminal Justice Act 2003 | Sections 29(4), 33(3), 34, 35, 43, 53, 62-65, 137-138, 151, 154-155, 161, 181, 182(2), 188, 196(1)(b), 204(4), 213(3)(b), 216(2)(a), 244(3)(b), 266, 280-283, 298, 300-301 and 303(b)(iii) |
| | Schedule 3 (Paragraphs 1-5, 7-12, 14-21, 23-26, 29-32, 34(2)(b), (d), (f), (3),(4), 41, 42(b), 43, 44(3), 45-47, 48(2)(a)(ii), (b), (3)(b)(ii)-(iv), 49(a), 50, 51(3), (4), (6), (7), (9)-(14), 52, 53, 54(2), (3)(d), (e), (5)(a)(i)(a), (a)(ii), (b), 55(2), 56(2)(a), (3)-(5), 57(3)(a), (b)(ii), (c), 58, 60(2)-(6), (7)(a), (8), 61, 62, 64(2)(a), (3)(a), (4)(a), 66(2)(a), (3)(a), (b), (4), (5), (6)(b), (8), 67, 70-72, 73(2), (3)(a), (4)(a), 74(6), 75(2), (4); Schedules 4; 10; 11; 25 (Paragraphs 1-28, 30-35, 52-53 and 55-105); Schedules 26; 27; 31; 32 (Paragraphs 17, 27, 28, 33, 51, 53, 63, 68(2), 102(2)(b), (c), (3) and 123(3)) and Schedule 36 (Paragraphs 2, 4, 7-9, 11-14, 16 and 98) |
| Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 | Sections 15, 48-53, 54(2)(c), (3)(c)-(d) and 57 |
| | Schedules 8; 9 and 10 (Paragraphs 13, 15, 28 and 64) |
| Police and Justice Act 2006 | Schedule 14 (Paragraphs 7, 15, 36, 38 and 41) |
| Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 | Sections 2(1)(d) and 10 |
| Serious Crime Act 2007 | Schedule 13 (Paragraph 7) |
| Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 | Sections 9, 11(2)-(8), 19, 33(2), (4), (7), (8), 34(2), (4)(b), (10), 39, 46(2), 74 (in respect of the provisions of Shedule 16 listed below) and 78 |
| | Schedule 4 (Paragraphs 3(3), (5), 25, 59(c), 92(a) and (c)); Schedules 7; 9 (Paragraph 2); Schedule 16 (Paragraphs 1-5, 6 (other than 6(3)), 7-11 and 17); Schedule 26 (Paragraphs 1, 2(3), 50, 63, 70 and 83) and Schedule 27 (Paragraphs 13(1), 26 and 36) |

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Topical Debates (Subjects Proposed)

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Leader of the House of Commons (Barbara Keeley):** This list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted on the floor of the House, by letter, e-mail or another method. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

*Week commencing 16 November 2009*

"Zimbabwe" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 23 November 2009*

"Textile Industry" (Business Questions)

"British Policing" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 30 November 2009*

"Policing of Protests" (Letter)

"Gaza" (Business Questions)

"Zimbabwe" (Business Questions)

"Care Quality Commission" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 21 December 2009*

"Holocaust Memorial Day" (Letter)

*Week commencing 4 January 2010*

"Food 2030" (Business Questions)

"Met Office" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 11 January 2010*

"Holocaust Memorial Day" (Letter)

"Haiti" (Business Questions)

"Sir Patrick Bateson Report on Dog Welfare and Crime" (Business Questions)

"Yemen" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 18 January 2010*

"Haiti" (Business Questions)

"Railway Industry" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 25 January 2010*

"Secure, Co-ordinated, and Environmentally Friendly School Transport" (Letter)

"The Radio Spectrum's Effect on Radio Microphones" (Business Questions)

*During this period there have been the following Topical Debates:*

"Afghanistan" on 14 January 2010

"Food Industry Competitiveness" on 21 January 2010

"Holocaust Memorial Day" on 28 January 2010

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Renewal Order)

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins):** Today I am laying before Parliament the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Renewal of Temporary Provisions) Order 2010. This order will continue in force the temporary provisions regarding the appointment of police officers and police support staff for a further, final year to 28 March 2011.

A further one-year renewal will enable the Government to reach their target of 30 per cent. Catholic representation in PSNI by March 2011. This is in line with the commitment made in the St. Andrews agreement that the 50:50 recruitment arrangements to the PSNI will lapse when the Patten target for Catholic officers has been achieved. It is our intention, if the 30 per cent. target is reached before March 2011, to return to Parliament to lapse the provisions.

Before deciding to renew the provisions, we have considered carefully the responses we received to a full 12-week review of the effectiveness of the temporary provisions. This review formed part of the Secretary of State's statutory duty to have regard to progress made towards ensuring that membership of the police and police support staff is representative of the community in Northern Ireland, and to consult the Policing Board. The consultation ended on 22 January 2010.

Since the introduction of the temporary provisions in 2001, Catholic composition has risen from 8.3 per cent. to 27.68 per cent.. This represents substantial progress towards a more representative police service. There is, however, still a short distance to go before the target of 30 per cent. Catholic representation is achieved. For these reasons, and after looking carefully at the responses to the consultation, the Secretary of State has decided that the temporary provisions should be renewed for a further year to 28 March 2011.

There will be an opportunity to debate the order in both Houses of Parliament.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 4 February 2010*

## TREASURY

### Terrorist Asset Freezing

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** The Supreme Court has today ruled that it will not grant a stay of its 27 January 2010 judgment on the legality of the Orders in Council HM Treasury uses to freeze terrorist assets. The effect of this judgment is to quash with immediate effect the Terrorism Order 2006 and all designations made under it. The court has not directly quashed the Terrorism Order 2001 and the Terrorism Order 2009, but the reason for its decision also makes those orders unsustainable.

Over £150,000 belonging to suspected terrorists is currently frozen in the UK under the Terrorism Orders. The UK takes its obligations under the UN charter very seriously and the Government believe that allowing this money to be unfrozen and returned to individuals designated under the orders and giving them access to the financial system would not be in the interests of national security.

In order to prevent assets frozen under the Terrorism Orders from being released, the Government will introduce primary legislation tomorrow to restore the validity of the Terrorism Orders and the designations made under them. The Government hope that this legislation should be passed by early next week. The legislation will include a provision backdated to today's judgment, providing legal authority to banks and other persons covered by the existing orders so as to allow the existing asset freezes to be maintained without a gap.

The legislation will extend the current Terrorism Orders only for a temporary period. This will give Parliament time in which to consider more fully how best to legislate to give effect to our UN terrorist asset-freezing commitments, while ensuring that national security is protected in the meantime.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Public Bodies 2009

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell):** The Cabinet Office has today published "Public Bodies 2009" which lists all non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) sponsored by the UK Government as at 31 March 2009. "Public Bodies 2009" also provides summary information on the size and expenditure of the NDPB sector and statistical information on public appointments.

Public Bodies 2009 can be downloaded from the civil service website at: www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney):** My noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord Hunt, today made the following statement:

> I am pleased to inform the House that on 26 January 2010 we invited applications for petroleum licences for unlicensed seaward blocks which will form the 26th round of offshore petroleum licensing. These blocks are widely distributed on the UK continental shelf and fall within the areas covered by the strategic environmental assessments 1-8; a map of the SEA areas can be found at:
>
> www.offshore-sea.org.uk.
>
> A copy will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.
>
> DECC's draft plan to offer licences for offshore oil and gas exploration and production through a 26th licensing round was the subject of a strategic environmental assessment completed in 2009. The SEA is documented on a dedicated website, www.offshore-sea.org.uk, and includes commissioned reports on various components of the natural environment, cultural features and socio-economic considerations. In addition, as part of the SEA new information was collected, in particular: on selected sea-bed features through sea-floor mapping, sampling and photography, on the offshore distribution of large cetaceans, and on important navigation routes and commercial fishing areas. The draft plan for the 26th licensing round included offering blocks to the south-west of England and Wales, and also in those areas that had been subject to earlier DECC SEAs–1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7–which covered the remainder of the UK continental shelf.
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> The potential implications of the exploration and production activities which could follow, if the draft plan were adopted, were considered at an expert assessment workshop and a series of stakeholder workshops. The results of these workshops were assessed further and documented in an environmental report which then formed the basis for consultation with the consultation bodies and the public. The three-month consultation period on DECC's draft plan and the environmental report were advertised in a number of local and national newspapers and notified by e-mail to a wide range of individuals and organisations.
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> All responses received from statutory and other consultees on the draft plan and the environmental report have been considered by DECC and a post-consultation report for the offshore energy SEA prepared and placed on the SEA website. This summarises consultee comments and DECC responses to them. The full texts of consultee comments have also been placed on the SEA website.
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> In deciding to proceed with a 26th offshore licensing round, DECC has had regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the environmental report together with feedback received from consultees. As a result of the SEA process, blocks in the deepest waters of the SW Approaches are being withheld from licensing for the present because of inadequacy of data.
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> A number of blocks excluded on the basis of recommendations of previous SEAs, or currently in the process of appropriate assessment consultation, have likewise been excluded from the offer.
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> The environmental report recommended that the blocks in, or overlapping, the boundaries of the Moray firth and Cardigan bay SACs should also be withheld from licensing for the present while the further assessments initiated following the 24th licensing round applications are concluded. We have therefore excluded 11 blocks in the Cardigan bay area and 10 in the Moray firth.
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> In addition, 228 blocks will not be offered for licensing in the areas covered by SEAs 1-8 at the request of the Ministry of Defence
>
> Licensing of the blocks excluded from the round may be revisited in the future, for example as more information on the features of interest becomes available.

In addition, a number of blocks may be licensed but with conditions attached restricting or prohibiting certain marine activities. It should be noted that the Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 and the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001, variously require that all major activities undertaken in connection with UK offshore hydrocarbon exploration and production should be subject to environmental assessment before consent is given for these activities.

Before any licence awards are made, DECC will assess whether the grant of licences applied for in the 26th Round is likely to have a significant effect on the management of any protected conservation sites. Where such effects cannot be excluded, a further detailed assessment will be needed to determine whether there are any adverse effects on the integrity of these protected conservation sites. This is required under Council directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, and UK implementing regulations.

DECC has, with industry and statutory environmental advisors, established an offshore oil and gas environmental monitoring committee which is charged with co-ordinating the strategic monitoring of potentially significant environmental effects of the industry, including those that could arise from the implementation of the plan to hold a 26th round of offshore licensing.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Commons Act (Part 1)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies):** Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 seeks to achieve a comprehensive current record of common land and town or village greens. It enables commons registration authorities (county councils in two-tier areas; district councils in areas without a county council; London borough councils) to bring up-to-date their registers of commons and greens, established under the Commons Registration Act 1965. Individuals may apply to register past unrecorded events, and registration authorities can make proposals in the public interest to update the registers. People may also apply to deregister wrongly registered land, and to register new land as common land.

In England, implementation of Part 1 began with a pilot scheme, in October 2008. Seven authorities are participating in the pilot: Cornwall, Devon, Hertfordshire, Kent and Lancashire county councils, the County of Herefordshire district council, and Blackburn with Darwen borough council, representing about 18 per cent. of the registered common land in England. The pilot implementation was designed to test the efficacy of procedures, guidance, costs and benefits, with the intention to commence national implementation in England from October 2010 onwards.

Following slower progress by pilot authorities with implementation than expected, regulations were made in July 2009 to extend the period during which applications to bring their registers up-to-date could be made free of charge until September 2010. This was to ensure that those individuals who stood to benefit from the provisions in the Act would have sufficient time to make applications to update the registers free of charge before the initial pilot period came to an end.

In order to ensure that we are able to learn fully all the lessons from the pilot, I have decided that the decision on whether, how and when to go ahead with national commencement should await the completion of the extended pilot period in September 2010. This means a delay in national implementation of at least a year from our original intention to commence from October 2010, but will help ensure that decisions on how best to proceed following the pilot are based on the best possible information.

## HEALTH

### Out-of-Hours Primary Care Services (Report)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** A report on the current arrangements for the local commissioning and provision of out-of-hours primary care services has today been published by the Department of Health and placed in the Library.

### Out-of-Hours Primary Care Services (Response)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** Following concerns about delivery of out-of-hours primary care services being raised in summer 2009, I met primary care professionals in order to understand the issues in more detail and consider what action might be taken to improve out-of-hours services to patients. The broader context to this was that in June 2009, the Care Quality Commission began an investigation into the out-of-hours primary care services in five primary care trusts provided by the company Take Care Now. The inquiry was prompted by the tragic death of a patient in February 2008 after he was administered 100mg of diamorphine by a locum doctor from Germany.

CQC published an update on its independent inquiry in October 2009. This included a preliminary conclusion that all PCTs needed to improve their monitoring of out-of-hours services, particularly of the quality of the service patients receive. Dr. David Colin-Thomé, national clinical director for primary care, subsequently wrote to PCTs in support of the CQC's recommendation in their update report, and reminding them of their responsibilities around performance management of OOHs providers and ensuring general practitioners working in OOHs are fit to practise that role.

I also asked, Dr David Colin-Thomé, national clinical director for primary care at the Department of Health, and Professor Steve Field, chairman of council, Royal College of General Practitioners, as two respected and experienced general practitioners, to jointly lead a review of current arrangements for the local commissioning and provision of out-of-hours services. In so doing, they considered the commissioning and performance management of OOH services; the selection, induction, training and use of OOH clinicians; and the management and operation of medical performers lists

I have published Dr Colin-Thomé and Professor Field's subsequent report today and placed copies in the Library. The report sets out a number of recommendations including:

> PCTs should review the performance management arrangements in place for their out-of-hours services, ensure they are robust, and fit for purpose;

the Department of Health should issue guidance to PCTs to assist them in making decisions about whether or not a doctor has the necessary knowledge of English to be admitted to their medical performers list;

the Department of Health should develop and introduce an improvement programme for PCTs to support their commissioning and performance management of out-of-hours services;

out-of-hours providers should consider the recruitment and selection processes in place for clinical staff, ensure they are robust, and follow best practice; and

strategic health authorities should consider how they monitor action taken by PCTs in response to the report and in carrying out appropriate performance management of out-of-hours providers.

The report's recommendations are an important reminder to PCTs and providers, of their obligations to ensure safe and effective out-of-hours services for patients and as such–in so far as they apply to the Department or the national health service–I have not only accepted them in full but I am announcing today further improvements to out-of-hours GP services. I will:

review the existing national quality requirements in order to develop a stronger set of national minimum standards which all out-of-hours providers will be required to meet;

introduce a new national model contract for out-of-hours provision, based on the new national minimum standards, to reflect the characteristics of existing high-quality provision;

through stronger performance management by SHAs, tighten existing controls to ensure PCTs are meeting their legal obligations through commissioning and contracting arrangements, and to ensure that providers are employing competent clinicians to practise as GPs in primary care out-of-hours. It is also my intention to direct PCTs to review their current procedures and to ensure that they have a clear policy in place for assessing the language knowledge of persons applying for inclusion on the local perfomers list; and

require PCTs to increase their engagement and involvement of GPs in ensuring high-quality provision of out-of-hours services through, for example, local medical committees, RCGP groups, RCGP faculties, clinical executive groups, and with local practice-based commissioning consortia.

We will be consulting relevant stakeholders on these proposals including the British Medical Association, The Royal College of General Practitioners, the NHS Alliance and the National Association of Primary Care.

In the meantime, officials in the Department will continue working with the NHS to ensure they are implemented; in particular, to continue to implement the recommendations of the "Tackling Concerns Locally: the Performers List system, A review of current arrangements and recommendations for the future" published in March 2009.

The NHS chief executive Sir David Nicholson will be writing to NHS organisations to bring this report to their attention and to seek assurances that they are meeting their obligations as set out in the report. At the same time, the Department will issue new interim guidance to PCTs to assist them in complying with their obligations to ensure all doctors admitted to their performers list have a satisfactory knowledge of English.

## National Pandemic Flu Service

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron):** With the global spread of the swine flu virus, the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic on 11 June 2009. In response to increasing pressures on front line national health service and social care services, the national pandemic flu service (NPFS) was activated on 23 July 2009. This was to provide a self-care service for people to assess their symptoms and, if necessary, to access antiviral medicines rapidly from antiviral collection points.

The Department is today announcing the decision to stand down the NPFS with effect from 1 am on 11 February 2010.

This is being done in response to the steady reduction in the estimated number of swine flu cases in the community, and is in line with our overall aim of ensuring the operational response is appropriate to the level of threat posed by the virus. General practitioners and primary care trusts have indicated that they can now manage the clinical caseload themselves. As we did with the launch of the NPFS, we are now standing it down with the full support of the key professional bodies (the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) the British Medical Association (BMA) and appropriate pharmacy organisations).

We will continue to monitor the spread of the swine flu virus, and, should it become necessary, the NPFS can be re-activated in seven days.

Anyone who suspects they have swine flu from 11 February will be advised to contact their doctor for assessment of their symptoms; the doctor will issue an antiviral authorisation voucher if needed. For the time being, antivirals will continue to be collected through antiviral collection points. People with swine flu should ask their flu friend to collect their antivirals on their behalf. Antivirals will continue to be issued to patients with swine flu symptoms, under this system, free of charge until at least the end March 2010, the end of the seasonal flu period.

Many people have felt reassured by the fall in disease incidence, and the relatively mild illness that has characterised most people's infections. Deaths, however small relative to previous pandemics, are tragedies for families and vaccination could help avoid them. The current vaccination programme is continuing and we must remain vigilant. We have therefore asked GPs to make further contact with people in the priority groups who are at higher risk from the disease and who have not yet had the vaccine. These include individuals aged over six months and in the seasonal at-risk groups; pregnant women; those who live with immunocompromised individuals; and children aged over six months and under five years and eligible front line health and social care workers. Good progress has been made in delivery of the vaccination programme to date but we must not be complacent. It is important that people in these groups continue to receive the vaccine as it offers the best protection against the virus.

I would like to record my thanks to all those involved in setting up and running the NPFS. It has broken new ground in healthcare delivery and has played an important role in our response to the swine flu pandemic. With the support of the RCGP, the BMA, and the pharmacy organisations, the NPFS has been very successful in easing pressure on primary care services during the busiest times of the pandemic, allowing GPs to focus on those most ill and ensuring high volumes of people get access to antiviral medicines, when they need them.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Haiti

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** Three weeks have now passed since an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck Haiti. The Government of Haiti have confirmed 112,000 bodies recovered from the rubble in and around the capital Port-au-Prince. Estimates of the final death toll are close to 170,000.

Following my written statement to the House on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 42WS, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have confirmed that a second British citizen, Ann Barnes, has lost her life in Haiti. Like Frederick Wooldridge who also died in the earthquake, Ms. Barnes worked for the UN mission in Haiti. We pay tribute to the work of Ms. Barnes and Mr. Wooldridge and more than 80 members of the United Nations mission in Haiti now confirmed to have lost their lives.

I would also like to pay tribute to the British public for their continued generosity in responding to Haiti's plight. The Disaster Emergency Committee appeal has now raised £70 million. This is a remarkable achievement.

Effective co-ordination of the relief effort remains vital. The Department for International Development is working hard to improve the situation on the ground and overcome the logistical bottlenecks that are hampering relief efforts. Our assessment is that co-ordination of the relief effort is improving. Systems are now in place to deliver clean drinking water to those who need it, with 500,000 people able to receive five litres per person per day. The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that operations on the ground continue to expand. In addition to the £1 million we have already provided to assist the United Nations with aid co-ordination, we have also taken the decision to provide a second secondee to OCHA in Haiti.

Shelter and sanitation for 900,000 people in Port-au-Prince and a further 200,000 in rural areas made homeless by the earthquake are now the top priority. Our field team reports that co-ordination of water and sanitation relief efforts continues to improve despite the scope and complexity of needs. There are still problems, but donors, cluster leads and OCHA are working to identify solutions.

The Department for International Development has also purchased 5,700 sheets of corrugated iron roofing materials that are vital for constructing durable shelters for about 2,000 families to bridge the gap until permanent homes can be rebuilt. Working closely with our colleagues in the Ministry of Defence, these materials weighing over 55 tons are being transported to Haiti by ship, on Royal Fleet Auxiliary Largs Bay.

RFA Largs Bay departed from Marchwood, Southampton yesterday, Wednesday 3 February, carrying these shelter materials as well as critically needed port handling equipment and vehicles for use by Save the Children, the International Federation of the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies. The port handling equipment will help unblock critical supply bottlenecks at Haiti's ports.

Weather permitting, we expect the ship to arrive off Cap Haitien on or around the 18 February. Once there, RFA Largs Bay is expected to stay in the region for a number of weeks to help the United Nations transport supplies around Haiti.

In addition to the materials sent on the RFA Largs Bay, three aircraft sent by the Department for International Development have also delivered plastic sheeting and other shelter materials for temporary shelters. We have also provided £1 million to Oxfam and £400,000 to the Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (ACTED) to provide clean drinking water, shelter materials, hygiene kits and water tanks for the construction of latrines and bathing spaces. On 2 February, we made a further £1.12 million available to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to support their work in providing temporary shelter, including two secondees from CARE International to support temporary settlement management. We have also provided a seconded specialist in transitional shelter to IOM, and all three secondees are now working on the ground, with exemplary support from the British embassy in Santo Domingo.

We have also deployed three civilian experts from the joint DFID, MOD and FCO stabilisation unit to help restore vital Government functions—specifically to get the prison service working again. We are liaising closely with the European Union, Canada and the United Nations and the unit stands ready to provide further civilian support to help the Haitian Government get back on their feet.

The British Government are mindful of the risks to the safety and protection of children in the aftermath of the earthquake, and their well-being is our primary concern. Priority must be given to efforts to reunite children with their birth families. Advice has been issued by the Hague bureau, Children and Families across Borders and the Disaster and Emergency Committee and the Prime Minister of Haiti has stated that the Government share the deep concern of the international community to avoid any trafficking of Haitian children. We welcome his commitment to sign personally all adoption authorisations so that no children will be allowed to leave the country without legal adoption documentation.

In the aftermath of this terrible tragedy and for the foreseeable future, we will continue to work with the international community to support recovery in Haiti. The Department for International Development has provided funding for development work through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations agencies, the European Commission and World Bank. The World Bank is allocating $100 million from the current IDA 15 replenishment, to which UK was biggest contributor. The United Kingdom's contribution to European Union humanitarian assistance for Haiti totals £42 million.

The Government of Haiti have asked the World Bank and United Nations to be the joint international leads with respect to longer-term rehabilitation, and we expect the other international financial institutions, the European Commission and Haiti's major bilateral donors also to have a strong role. A World Bank team is already in Port-au-Prince working with the Government to identify priority areas for their assistance and preparing for the joint needs assessment due on 8 February. The international community needs to continue its efforts to address the terrible plight of Haitians, and we will play our part through our very substantial support to the multilaterals involved, and the continuation of the humanitarian operation now under way.

## TRANSPORT

### Private Hire Vehicle Contract Exemption

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** The exemption from private hire vehicle licensing for vehicles working on long-term contracts was repealed in 2008 by virtue of the Road Safety Act 2006. A similar change was made to the PHV legislation in London.

The Government decided to repeal the exemption at short notice during the passage of the Bill, which meant that a formal consultation exercise was not possible.

The Department undertook to review the impact of the repeal of the PHV contract exemption and today has published the report. The report has been published on the Department's website and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

In compiling their report, the consultants asked a range of stakeholders–including licensing authorities, conventional PHV operators, operators of services where there were doubts about their position in relation to PHV law and consumers–about their views and their experiences since the repeal of the contract exemption.

It is apparent from the report that the impact of the repeal has been mixed; it has brought within the licensing regime many thousands of operators and drivers who had previously been working under the exemption, which is a desirable outcome in terms of enhancing safety. However, it has also generated questions about the position of a number of operators who would not regard themselves as conventional private hire but who carry passengers in a car as part of their wider jobs and who do not know whether they must be licensed.

The report concludes that licensing authorities and operators would like to see a more robust message from central Government about the extent to which a range of operators at the margins of the definition of private hire vehicle do, or do not, fall to be licensed as PHVs.

The Department recognises that although Parliament has delegated responsibility for the licensing function to individual local authorities, there is a role for the Department in terms of offering guidance with the objective of achieving a degree of uniformity of approach throughout the country.

Accordingly, the Department will undertake to revise the guidance note which it produced in November 2007 in such a way as to offer a more robust view about which categories of operators should be licensed.

The review also showed that the other main taxi provision contained in the Road Safety Act 2006–allowing licensing authorities to suspend or revoke a driver's licence with immediate effect in certain circumstances rather than allowing them to continue working pending appeal–has been welcomed by licensing authorities as a useful additional tool in undertaking their licensing responsibilities.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 5 February 2010*

## TREASURY

### Asset Purchase Facility (Contingent Liabilities)

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** A departmental minute from the Treasury on the contingent liabilities arising from the asset purchase facility is being published today. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

### Terrorist Asset freezing

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** The Government are today introducing in Parliament the Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Bill. As set out in my written ministerial statement of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 21WS, this Bill is being introduced as an urgent temporary measure to prevent assets being unfrozen and returned to terror suspects as a result of the Supreme Court's decision to quash the Terrorism Order 2006 without a stay.

The Government are also publishing today a draft Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill. This Bill, modelled closely on our existing powers under the Terrorism Order 2009, is intended to provide a durable legal basis for the UK to freeze the assets of suspected terrorists in fulfilment of our United Nations obligations.

The Government have had urgent discussions with the relevant banks following the Supreme Court's decision not to grant a stay. The banks have confirmed that in the light of the Government's decision to bring forward immediate legislation providing retrospective legal authority for them to continue existing freezes, no funds will be unfrozen as a result of the Supreme Court's judgment.

*Asset-freezing licensing policy*

In order to assist consideration of the Bills, the remainder of this statement sets out the Government's approach to licensing exemptions to asset freezes in order to meet human rights and humanitarian needs.

UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999) requires all member states to implement asset freezes against persons associated with al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Targets are to be agreed by a Committee of the UN Security Council and the list is maintained by the United Nations.

UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) requires all member states to freeze the assets of persons who commit, attempt to commit or facilitate terrorist acts. There is no central UN list and targeting is left to individual states, in accordance with their domestic legislation.

The relevant UN Security Council Resolutions concerning asset freezing require that financial sanctions against designated terror suspects be broad-based in nature, not merely freezing existing assets but preventing designated persons accessing funds or economic resources from other persons. The purpose is to ensure that designated persons cannot use or access the means of terrorist finance, principally funds or things that can be used to generate funds.

In order to ensure that the overall effect of the asset-freezing regime is proportionate and fair, UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002) allows member states to put in place a licensing regime to authorise, where appropriate, access to frozen funds or other financial assets or economic resources to meet "basic expenses" (that is, basic humanitarian needs which include payments for foodstuffs, rent or mortgage, medicines and medical treatment, taxes, insurance premiums, public utility charges and legal fees and expenses) and "extraordinary" expenses. The overall objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and meeting the human rights and humanitarian needs of designated persons and other third parties.

Licence requests for persons listed by the UN under the 1267 regime need to be submitted to the relevant UN sanctions committee under differing procedures for basic and extraordinary expenses.

Licence requests for persons listed domestically under the UN 1373 regime are not submitted to the UN Sanctions Committee and are purely a matter for the relevant member state to determine.

*The UK's implementation of its licensing obligations*

The Government recognise the importance of having an effective licensing system to ensure the overall proportionality and fairness of the asset-freezing regime. Our licensing regime has been developed and improved in recent years, in the light of the experience of operating it, to ensure that it remains as effective as possible in achieving its objective of ensuring proportionality and fairness.

Key features of the licensing regime that help ensure proportionality and fairness are as follows:

> Our policy to issue at the point of designation a legal expenses licence, a licence to the benefits departments to pay any state benefits due and a licence allowing the designated person to access his funds to meet living expenses. By granting these licences at the point of designation, our intention is to ensure that the designation results in the minimum of interruption to the everyday lives of designated persons and their families in terms of being able to meet their everyday living expenses and to obtain legal representation.
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> Our policy to ensure that state benefits due to the designated person and his household are paid in full unless there are strong national security reasons why this would not be appropriate. Currently, all designated persons and their households are receiving their full entitlement of benefits.
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> In order to allow for the immediate granting of licences for persons listed by the United Nations under the UN 1267 regime, the Government have informed the UN Sanctions Committee that it will not submit requests for basic expenses licences to the UN for consideration on an individual basis.
>
> While for procedural reasons, the UN Sanctions Committee does distinguish between basic and extraordinary expenses requests, the Government do not seek to limit designated persons or their families to basic expenses only. Our policy—consistent with taking a proportionate approach—is that designated persons should have access to their income and other property insofar as this can be arranged without giving rise to risk of terrorist finance.
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> The Treasury takes an active approach to granting licences. There are currently around 50 individuals resident in the UK whose assets are frozen under either the Terrorism Orders or the al-Qaeda Orders. In 2009, the Treasury granted around 121 licences in respect of those persons.

*Licence conditions*

Licence conditions are a key feature of the licensing regime, as they apply safeguards to ensure that funds or economic resources can be made available to designated persons in a way that protects against terrorist finance risks. In this way, appropriate conditions facilitate the granting of licences that it might otherwise not be possible to grant.

The conditions we apply to licences reflect two broad objectives:

to ensure that designated persons do not have access to large amounts of cash, which can be more easily diverted to terrorist activity; and

to ensure that there is a reasonable audit trail to address terrorist finance risks and that the Treasury can monitor compliance with the terms of the licence and identify if any breaches have occurred that could give rise to national security concerns.

The exact licence conditions are set on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances of the designated person and the terrorist finance risks involved. In order that controls are set in a way that is proportionate and risk-based, the Treasury takes advice from the police and Security Service about the terrorist finance risks involved in each case and the appropriate licence conditions to address them. Consistent with the objective of proportionality, the Treasury's intention is to impose only those controls that are necessary to protect against terrorist finance risks.

*Household benefits policy*

EC Regulation 881/2002 states that it is an offence to

> "make funds available directly or indirectly for the benefit of the designated person"

without a licence from a competent authority.

The Treasury's interpretation of this provision, as set out in a written statement to Parliament by the then Economic Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls) in 15 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 18WS, is that it includes the provision of state benefits to the spouses or partners of designated persons where they are living together in the same household as the designated person. It is on this basis that the Treasury licenses the payment of state benefits to the households of designated persons. It is usually a condition of these licences that all the household benefits are paid to the unfrozen account of a designated person's spouse or partner. While a spouse or partner may spend these benefits on the household's needs, he or she is required to report to the Treasury on the expenditure of those funds.

The Treasury's interpretation of the relevant provision of the EC Regulation is the subject of litigation. The Treasury's position was upheld in the UK by the High Court and then the Court of Appeal. The House of Lords has referred the case to the European Court of Justice, but made it clear that it would prefer to interpret the provision more narrowly than the Treasury's position. The ECJ Advocate-General issued an opinion on 14 January 2010 indicating that in his view, the provision should be interpreted narrowly and should not include the payment of state benefits to the households of designated persons. A final ECJ decision is expected within the next few months.

Until the ECJ decides on the case, the interpretation of the relevant provision of the EC Regulation is unclear. Given this, and the fact that the most recent legal judgment on this matter, that of the Court of Appeal, upheld the Treasury's position, it would be premature at this stage to remove licensing provisions relating to the payments of benefits to the households of designated persons. When the ECJ clarifies the interpretation of EC Regulation 881/2002 on this matter, the Treasury will review its policy and make any changes that are needed to give effect to the Supreme Court's judgment.

In the meantime, the Treasury will continue to license the payment of state benefits to the spouses or partners of designated persons. However, the Treasury is mindful of the need for all licence conditions to be proportionate and of the need to limit as far as is possible the impact that the asset-freezing regime has on spouses or other family members of designated persons.

I have therefore looked again at how we implement the licensing of household benefits, taking particular account of comments expressed in the Supreme Court judgment. I have decided to make the following changes to ensure that our approach remains fair and proportionate.

While the Treasury will continue to apply appropriate safeguards in licences, which will be issued on a case-by-case basis and contain provisions appropriate to the level of risk posed by the individual concerned, the Treasury will no longer require all household benefits to be paid to the spouse or partner of the designated person. Families will be able to choose whether it is the designated person or their spouse or partner who receives the family benefits in order to manage their finances in a way that suits their individual circumstances.

There will now no longer be a general requirement on spouses or partners of designated persons to report to the Treasury on the expenditure of their household benefits. This will reduce any adverse impact the regime has on them by ameliorating the effect of licensing their household benefits.

We will continue to require the designated person to report on expenditure of any benefits paid directly to him or of any licensed funds given to him.

I believe that this approach will ensure that we continue to have appropriate controls in place to prevent the diversion of funds to terrorism, while limiting as far as possible the impact of the asset-freezing regime on the families of designated persons.

## HEALTH

### Quality Accounts

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** I have today placed in the Library the Government's response to the recent consultation on detailed proposals for Quality Accounts. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and the response can also be seen at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Highqualitycareforall/Qualityaccounts/index.htm

"High Quality Care for All", published in June 2008, was the final report of the national health service next stage review, a year-long process led by the Department and the NHS which involved over 60,000 NHS staff, patients, stakeholders and members of the public.

"High Quality Care for All" committed the Department and the NHS to developing a quality framework to support local clinical teams and NHS organisations to improve the quality of care locally, a key part of which was publishing quality information—in Quality Accounts.

Quality Accounts are annual reports to the public from providers of NHS healthcare services about the quality of services they provide. The public, patients and others with an interest would look to a Quality Account to understand what an organisation is doing well; where improvements in service quality are required; what priorities for improvement are for the coming year; and how involved users of services, staff, and others with an interest in the organisation are in determining these priorities for improvement.

Quality Accounts will improve public accountability and engage the leaders of an organisation in their quality improvement agenda. Public accountability comes from the presentation of honest, rounded and meaningful information regarding quality of services into the public domain. The leaders of an organisation will be engaged in the quality improvement agenda both in order to achieve public accountability but also as a result of it.

Quality Accounts are therefore a key component of the overall framework. The purpose and proposed content of a Quality Account, and the processes that should be in place to produce one, have been shaped by a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process and the successful introduction of quality reporting for 2008-09 by NHS foundation trusts and by NHS trusts in the east of England. Work on this has been led by the Department, in partnership with Monitor, the Care Quality Commission and NHS East of England.

The primary legislation for Quality Accounts in the Health Act 2009 set out the broad principle that all NHS providers should produce an annual account of the quality of their healthcare services. Because we are committed to developing our approach to Quality Accounts in partnership with the NHS, and also with patients, their carers, the wider public as well as professional and academic stakeholders, the Health Act left detailed implementation to be achieved by way of secondary legislation.

Following the collaborative design work, we set out our proposals for Quality Accounts in a consultation document, "The Framework for Quality Accounts: a consultation on the proposals", the public consultation on which ran from 17 September 2009 to 10 December 2009.

Around 170 individuals and organisations responded to the consultation, and proposals attracted wide support. In response to detailed representations, we modified and clarified our original proposals. In summary:

we made the regulations less prescriptive about the number of priorities for quality improvement that a provider should set by removing the maximum and leaving that to local discretion;

we simplified the statement on participation in clinical audit;

we made clear in our guidance that providers should explain how participation in clinical audit and research improves patient care;

the information on data quality (inclusion of valid NHS number) will be supplied separately by admitted patient care, outpatient and accident and emergency;

ensuring that both Local Involvement Networks (LINks) and Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) will be given the opportunity to comment on a provider's Quality Account;

the regulations are now less prescriptive about the number of priorities for quality improvement that a provider should set. A minimum has been set but no maximum requirement—this allows larger organisation to set a higher number of priorities;

the statement on participation in clinical audit has been simplified. The Department's response to the consultation acknowledges that there is limited benefit in asking providers to calculate what percentage of patients were covered by the audits undertaken;

departmental guidance will make it clear that providers when reporting on the number and type of clinical audits undertaken and the number of patients recruited to clinical research should explain how participation in both processes has improved patient care in their organisation;

the information on data quality (inclusion of valid NHS number) will be supplied separately by admitted patient care, outpatient and accident and emergency;

both LINks and OSCs will be given the opportunity to comment on a provider's Quality Account as both organisations have roles to play in providing assurance over the content of a Quality Account; and

although some responses indicated that all providers, irrespective of their size, should produce a Quality Account, the majority view was that providers that do not have a significant NHS workload should be exempt. The definition of a small provider is based on the definition used in the Standard NHS Contract (those whose annual contract value is less than £130,000 and who employ 50 or fewer full-time employees) and will be used as the cut off for exemption from the requirement to produce a Quality Account.

These proposals will now be used to draft regulations that will shortly be laid before Parliament. These regulations will also set out the initial assurance mechanism for Quality Accounts—we will be consulting on proposals for a more formal mechanism later this year, the proposed content and manner of publication, and any exemptions that will apply in the first year.

For the first year of Quality Accounts all providers or sub-contractors of NHS services will have to produce a quality account unless they are exempted by the regulations. Their first Quality Accounts, covering activity in 2009-10, will be published this summer. We will also be publishing shortly a comprehensive toolkit to enable providers to produce Quality Accounts that their patients, the population they serve, and their own staff will recognise as a fair and balanced view of services.

The regulations exempt primary care and community health services from the quality account obligations. It is intended these services will be exempt only for the first year. We plan to introduce Quality Accounts for primary and community care sectors from 2011. An engagement and testing process, similar to that run within NHS foundation trusts and NHS East of England providers but focused on the particular needs of these two sectors, started in autumn 2009. The providers participating in the testing work are in NHS North East and NHS East Midlands, and a framework for test reporting will be published over the next few weeks, with a view to starting the pilots this spring and evaluating them in the summer. This exercise will help shape the development of Quality Accounts further as they begin to apply to all providers, and a further consultation on proposed regulations will therefore start later this year.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Informal Meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers

**The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle):** The Informal Meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers took place on 28 to 29 January 2010 in Barcelona, Spain. I represented the United Kingdom.

The priority for this informal meeting was to develop and deepen reflections on the employment strategy and social security issues under the post-2010 Lisbon strategy (EU 2020). This was accomplished through three plenary sessions.

The first session concentrated on the "crisis exit, and the maintenance of employment and inclusive labour markets". The presidency emphasised the need to ensure that employment and social issues were properly addressed in EU 2020, although it was vital that these were considered in the wider economic context. During the discussion, member states stressed: the need for flexible labour markets alongside security for workers including active intervention to help those furthest from labour markets, especially women and the young; the importance of mainstreaming gender equality especially in the light of the demographic challenges of an ageing society affecting the whole European Union; and the focus on green jobs. I explained that the recent UK proposal for an EU Compact on Jobs and Growth supported the objective of more inclusive labour markets and investment in training, skills and education. I stressed that more collaboration on making work pay and pension reform will be important factors, and highlighted the need to work across all sectors of the European Council.

The second session focused on "new skills and changes in employment". The presidency stressed the importance of investing in "human capital"; encouraging lifelong learning which would enhance the employability of workers. The delegations were in agreement that access to training was vital throughout working life, and that vocational training could often be more appropriate than academic. While the importance of developing skills in new sectors was emphasised, there was awareness that it could be difficult to predict the final impact of the recession, and that it would be important to ensure workers had transferable skills, making them more flexible and adaptable.

In the final session, "Social Security and social cohesion", the presidency had asked how the European Union should approach social security strategy in the future.

Delegations argued for better use of the Open Method of Co-ordination and wanted advice from the International Labour Organisation, such as the Decent Work Agenda, to be considered wherever relevant.

On pensions, many thought that this would continue to be a key issue throughout the European Union and that work was needed to assess the sustainability of pensions systems and how these had been affected by the crisis. Delegations were looking forward to the Council conclusions on this topic to be presented at the Employment and Social Policy Council in June, although some emphasised that future work must take account of the different systems in the member states rather than being a standard, generalised model.

In conclusion, the presidency agreed that a summary of the debate would be presented to Employment and Social Policy Council in March and then sent on to the European Council.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 9 February 2010*

## TREASURY

### Corporate Taxation

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** The Government plan to introduce legislation to clarify the corporation tax treatment of manufactured payments received by companies in the course of certain sale and repurchase–"repo"–transactions. The amendment will ensure that manufactured payments must be taken into account in calculating profits chargeable to corporation tax, if they are taken into account in computing accounting profits.

The clarification follows a recent challenge to the repo legislation in Chapter 10 of Part 6 of the Corporation Tax Act 2009–the "repo" legislation–that manufactured payments received by companies may not have to be taken into account for tax purposes if the securities to which they relate are not recognised on the companies' balance sheets.

That challenge could result in companies seeking to deduct, for tax purposes, manufactured payments that have contributed to their accounting profits. By excluding the payments, the companies' taxable profits could be much lower than their actual profits. The Exchequer consequences could be very significant.

To ensure that there is no possibility of adverse consequences for the Exchequer, the proposed legislation will apply from 1 October 2007–the date the repo legislation was introduced–and will ensure that existing practice is followed and the previous general understanding of the tax position is maintained. The legislation cannot result in any company being charged tax on more than its actual profits but prevents the possibility of relief for artificial losses.

A copy of the draft legislation together with draft explanatory notes and full background material will be published today on HM Revenue and Customs website.

### Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and Georgia)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** A new protocol to the double taxation agreement with Georgia was signed on 3 February 2010. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be made available on HM Revenue and Customs website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

### United Kingdom Listing Authority

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** The Treasury has published today the UKLA's annual objectives for 2010. The Financial Services Authority, acting in its role as the competent authority for listing, is referred to as the United Kingdom Listing Authority. Copies of the document have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Television Product Placement

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** I would like to set out the Government's plans for product placement on television.

I announced on 9 November 2009 that the Government had decided to consult again on this issue, and we did so between that date and 8 January this year. We had approximately 1,480 responses to this consultation. I am publishing these on my Department's website today and we will make a summary report of them available shortly.

As a result of this consultation the Government have concluded that we will be able to allow television product placement in a way which will provide meaningful commercial benefits to commercial television companies and programme makers while taking account of the legitimate concerns that have been expressed.

We have therefore decided to legislate to allow UK television companies to include product placement in programmes which they make or commission to appear in their schedules.

Adherence to our current position in which UK TV programme making cannot benefit at all from the income potentially to be generated by product placement would lead to continuing damage to its finances at a time when this crucial part of our creative industries needs all the support we can give it.

It has become the more important to make this move now that every other EU member state, with the sole current exception of Denmark, has either allowed television product placement already or has expressed a firm intention to do so. Not to do so would jeopardise the competitiveness of UK programme makers as against the rest of the EU, and this is something which we cannot afford to do.

UK audiences have been used to product placement in films and, subject to them not being unduly prominent, imported television programmes, especially from the United States, for many years. However, allowing television product placement in domestic UK programming will be an important departure. It is right for us to proceed with caution and in particular to be very careful about the types of product for which it is permitted.

Our legislation will therefore specify some important exceptions, in particular the prohibition of the placement of alcohol and foods and drinks high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS foods). The Government also fully share the concerns that have been expressed about the potential impact of product placement on the editorial independence of broadcasters and viewers' trust in what they see on television. We believe that our proposals will safeguard these.

*Legislation*

The Government will lay regulations under section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972, giving legal effect to the requirements of the EU audiovisual media services directive on TV product placement. However, TV product placement will not become permissible immediately the regulations come into effect.

Their effect will be to allow Ofcom to permit product placement under its code regulating the content of TV programmes, and Ofcom will need to run a public consultation on the detailed changes to this code before these can come into effect.

Only after that has happened, and Ofcom has amended its code, will it be possible for TV companies to show programmes which they have made or commissioned and which include product placement. We envisage that this stage would be reached later this year.

The EU directive requires that member states prohibit product placement but permits them to derogate from that in the four separate genres of "cinematographic works, films and series made for television or on-demand services, sports programmes, and light entertainment programmes". Our legislation would therefore follow this pattern of imposing an overall ban on product placement except in these four genres.

The legislation will not provide more precise definitions of these terms. Instead, it will allow Ofcom to intervene in the event that broadcasters unacceptably stretch the envelope and include product placement in programming which cannot properly be seen as falling into any of these permitted categories. The existing powers, including the code-making powers, which Ofcom have allow them to do that in an appropriate and effective way.

The responses to our consultation have confirmed that there is concern about the possibility of product placement in current affairs, consumer and religious programming. The Government share these concerns, since some programmes in these categories could be seen as falling into the "series" genre specified by the directive, and we have concluded that it is important that our legislation ensures that product placement is not allowed in them. It will therefore contain specific prohibitions to that effect.

News programmes and bulletins are not covered by the four genres of programme which the EU directive permits to contain product placement. Our legislation will therefore have the effect of preventing product placement in any TV news programming, as the directive requires.

Our legislation will not permit product placement in the BBC's licence fee funded services. This will continue to be prevented by the BBC's charter and its agreement with the Government.

*Products*

The directive prohibits the placement of two specific types of product, that is tobacco products (as well as any other placement by or on behalf of a company whose principal activity is the manufacture or sale of tobacco products) and prescription medicines. The Government have decided to move significantly beyond this. Our legislation will specifically prohibit the placement of products and services in the following categories:

alcoholic drinks;

foods and drinks high in fat, salt or sugar;

gambling;

smoking accessories;

over-the-counter medicines; and

infant formula and follow-on formula.

In reaching this decision the Government have had the issue of potential effects on health and welfare, and especially children's health and welfare, particularly in mind. The directive contains a ban on product placement in "children's programmes", and our legislation will enact that. However, children's viewing is not confined to children's programmes.

An alternative to a ban on placement of HFSS foods and alcohol might have been restrictions of some kind on their placement in shows which have a large child audience, or which are shown before the watershed. But this would be complex to administer and would not provide the certainty which the Government seek.

In the circumstances we intend to legislate for a complete bar on placing these products. This is an important aspect of the cautious approach that we need to take.

*Other safeguards*

Our legislation will also, as required by the directive, specify that product placement should not affect editorial independence, be unduly prominent, or directly encourage purchase. Ofcom will have the task of policing adherence to these requirements.

Ofcom will also be able to set further conditions for ensuring editorial integrity, including in relation to the prominence of products which have been placed in a television programme. The directive requires that audiences are alerted to the presence of product placement in a programme by "signalling" at the beginning and end and after advertising breaks. The legislation will contain this requirement and it will be for Ofcom to determine, after their own consultation, how it is met.

The legislation will not affect requirements in respect of the presence of product placement in imported, non-EU, programmes which are transmitted by UK television broadcasters. This will continue to be permissible within the boundaries set by the directive, provided that it meets Ofcom's overall requirements about, in particular, the avoidance of undue prominence.

## DEFENCE

### Search and Rescue Helicopter (Preferred Bidder)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies):** I am delighted to announce, together with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), that the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport have chosen the Soteria Consortium as the preferred bidder for the joint search and rescue helicopter project following a competition under the private finance initiative.

The Government are committed to sustaining the effectiveness and high standards of the United Kingdom search and rescue helicopter service, currently provided by the Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The new service, which is anticipated to begin with a phased introduction from 2012, will replace the existing Ministry of Defence helicopters at the end of their service life, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency service contract when it comes up for renewal.

The new service will bring together the Ministry of Defence and Maritime and Coastguard Agency search and rescue helicopter provision into one highly effective and harmonised service under one single contract. The entire fleet of modern helicopters, some 30 per cent. faster than the current Sea Kings, will be able to attend low-level overland night-time incidents, will have forward-looking infrared equipment and be fitted with fully integrated de-icing equipment for much improved performance in severe winter conditions, thus providing the UK with an excellent SAR helicopter service with the ability to save lives well into the future.

The service will continue to be managed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and will retain a proportion of military aircrew alongside civilian aircrew trained to the same high standards.

We will now be working with the Soteria Consortium to finalise the contract, which we expect to award later in 2010.

### Ministry of Defence (Science and Technology)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies):** I announce changes to the internal arrangements for formulating and delivering science and technology (S and T) to the UK armed forces. From 1 April 2010, the science innovation and technology (SIT) top level budget (TLB) within the Ministry of Defence will stand down. The task of setting MOD's S and T policy and strategy will move to the centre TLB under the direct control of the MOD chief scientific adviser. This will ensure that this key aspect of defence is at the heart of future policy and decision making.

The MOD will continue to look to the broadest possible supplier base for the delivery of the majority of its S and T requirements. Delivery will be supported by an enhanced defence science technology laboratory (DSTL) which will continue to be the MOD's in-house focus for S and T knowledge, skills and advice. Under the new structure, DSTL will also be responsible for the planning and delivery of the defence research programme. However, DSTL, as now, will only undertake research activity which, by its sensitive, operationally critical or international nature, should only be performed in Government.

These changes will enable a clearer organisational structure for defence S and T and will reduce overheads within defence S and T management to reinvest in research. As a consequence of these changes, around 100 posts will be removed from the current S and T organisational structure.

Implementation of these changes will be undertaken by a project team, reporting to the chief scientific adviser, which will work with the MOD trade unions to ensure delivery of defence S and T, particularly for operations, is unaffected.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Pesticides (European Legislation)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Dan Norris):** I would like to announce the publication today of a public consultation on the implementation of two key pieces of European pesticides legislation.

In September 2009 the European Council of Ministers agreed two new pieces of legislation: the Plant Protection Products Regulation[1] (the Regulation) and the Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides[2] (The Directive). These are part of the EU's thematic strategy on pesticides which aims to minimise the risks to health and the environment from the use of pesticides.

This consultation is the first of a two-stage consultation process; its purpose is to seek views on the transposition of the Directive, and two measures relating to the provision of public information on pesticides under the Regulation. We are also seeking views on how the UK should use charging arrangements provided by this legislation and another regulation on maximum residue levels of pesticides in food and feed. The second stage will be to consult on the draft legislation transposing the Directive.

*Sustainable Use Directive 2009/128/EC*

This directive will need to be transposed and implemented by member states by November 2011. Its overall objective is to establish "... a framework to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides".

Key features of the Directive include: the establishment of national action plans; compulsory testing of application equipment, certification of operators and distributors, and access to certification for advisors; a ban (subject to derogations) on aerial spraying; special measures to protect the aquatic environment, public spaces and conservation areas; minimising the risks to human health and the environment through handling, storage and disposal; and the promotion of low-input regimes, including integrated pest management.

*Plant Protection Products Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009*

The Regulation is essentially a revision of directive 91/414/EEC that currently governs the approvals regime for plant protection products, but with some new elements. The Regulation's overall objective is to "... lay down rules for the authorisation of plant protection products in commercial form and for their placing on the market, use and control within the Community [and] ... ensure a high level of protection of both human and animal health and the environment and to improve the functioning of the internal market through the harmonisation of the rules on the placing on the market of plant protection products including active substances, while improving agricultural production."

The Regulation updates the existing regime and aims to increase the level of protection for people and the environment as well as speeding up decision making and providing clearer rules. The majority of the Regulation is directly binding and is not therefore included in this consultation. There are, however, two discretionary provisions in the Regulation where we have undertaken to consult.

The two provisions are:

Article 31: Authorisations–Notification of Neighbours

Article 67: Recording and Disclosing Information on pesticides

They concern the provision of information in two main categories: advance notification to neighbours who could be exposed to crop-spraying activity; and making available records of plant protection products used, on request by the competent authority.

I believe that there should be a high level of transparency and public access to information about the approval system. The Regulation provides an opportunity to consider the introduction of measures that would provide greater transparency of pesticides use post-approval. Despite the precautionary nature of the approval system and the high level of protection that it affords people, animals and the environment, people may wish to know about pesticides that they see being used. This section of the consultation explores the costs and benefits of options for providing access to this information.

*Charging arrangements*

The Regulation, the Directive and regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels (the MRLs regulation) all provide for member states to recover the costs of work carried out under that legislation. The Regulation introduces new requirements to the regulatory regime that will be charged to pesticide authorisation holders. All three pieces of legislation provide for member states to recover certain costs that are not currently recoverable.

The consultation invites views on how charging arrangements in the UK should operate in future, and our top priority will continue to be the protection of human health and the environment.

The chemicals regulation directorate of the Health and Safety Executive is the delivery body for DEFRA's responsibilities for pesticides and is undertaking this consultation on behalf of DEFRA. The consultation covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each administration will consider its own approach to the outcome of the consultation.

I will be holding meetings with key stakeholder groups during the consultation period to listen to their views. A copy of the consultation has been deposited in the libraries of both Houses and is available on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/pesticides/index.htm

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[1] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:309:0001:0050:EN:PDF

[2] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:309:0071:0086:EN:PDF

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Reform of the House of Commons

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman):** The Government welcome the report of the Select Committee on Reform of the House of Commons. The Government fully support 21 of the recommendations and conclusions in the report and has tabled 16 motions which are required to give effect to these recommendations. Some of the report's other recommendations do not require motions to be brought before the House at present.

The House will have an opportunity to debate the report on Monday 22 February, on a general motion. The House will then be asked to approve individual motions. This debate provides a real opportunity for a positive decision by the House to ensure that there is immediate progress on many of the measures included in the report.

For any motions which are opposed, we will make time for a further debate and, if necessary, votes. We are considering providing a day to do this no later than the week following the debate, provisionally at the sitting on Thursday 4 March. This will be confirmed during the business statement in the normal way.

The Government support the Committee's recommendation for the election of Select Committee Chairs by secret ballot of the whole House. We have tabled two motions for new Standing Orders, one to provide for the ballot and one to allow elected Chairs either to resign voluntarily, or to be removed if they have lost the confidence of their Committee.

The Government support the election of Select Committee members by each party, and believe that each party should be free to devise its own arrangements, whether by secret ballot or otherwise. To enable this now to go forward, we have tabled a motion to take note of the Committee's recommendation. We have also tabled a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation that Select Committees ought to be appointed within six weeks of the beginning of the new Session following an election.

We have also tabled a motion to approve the recommendations relating to the development of a system of private Members' motions for debate and decision of the House.

The Government accept the recommendation for the establishment of a Back-Bench business committee, to schedule non-Government business. This was one of the central areas that the Prime Minister invited the Committee to look at. We welcome the Committee's proposals and believe that more work is required, both to clarify the scope of Back-Bench business and to give further consideration to the Committee's proposals relating to procedure in the Committee. We have therefore tabled a motion to approve the recommendation in principle, with further consideration in the next Parliament.

We do not believe that the time is right to take forward proposals for a House business committee, particularly in advance of having the benefit of considering how the Back-Bench business committee will work in practice. However, we will listen to the views of Members on this issue during the debate on the 22 February, and will consider further in light of the views expressed.

In addition to these major proposals, we have tabled motions to approve the following recommendations:

amendment of Standing Orders to replace the word chairman with the word chair throughout, and to change the name of the Chairmen's Panel to Panel of Chairs. This gives effect to the Committee's recommendation on terminology (recommendation 3);

amendment to Standing Order No.152, which would standardise the size of departmental Select Committees at 11, with the exception of Northern Ireland Affairs, which will retain its membership of 13 (recommendation 9);

examination by the Liaison Committee of the role, resources and tasks of Select Committees (recommendation 11);

a vote on September sittings in next parliament (recommendation 31);

a more open approach to scheduling Public Bill Committee evidence; more opportunities for the public to influence draft legislation (recommendations 38 and 42);

investigation by the House of a system of petitions requiring debate (recommendation 43);

more work on e-petitions (recommendation 44);

trial of debates on petitions (recommendation 47);

provision of more information for petitioners by House authorities (recommendation 48); and

notice of petitions to be given on the Order Paper (recommendation 49).

## CABINET OFFICE

### Government Olympic Executive

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell):** I have today published the Government Olympic Executive's Annual Report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report, February 2010".

The document fulfils the commitment to report to Parliament biannually, on details of progress across the Olympic programme and the funding for the games.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games remain on time and within budget. The current anticipated final cost (AFC) is £7.262 billion, compared to £7.241 billion at the end of the last quarter. This represents an increase since the last quarter of 0.3 per cent. The majority of contingency—well over £1 billion—remains unreleased and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) continues to make strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure in the Olympic park.

With more than two and half years to go, all the milestones for the Olympic build have been hit, the construction programme is nearly 50 per cent. completed, the transformation of East London is well under way, and legacy plans are more advanced than for any previous games.

London 2012 is continuing to provide economic and social benefits. More than 1,000 companies—98 per cent. of which are UK-based—have won £5 billion-worth of direct contracts from the ODA, opening up thousands more business opportunities along the supply chain and helping to support employment around the country. During 2010, the workforce on the Olympic park and the Olympic village will peak at 11,000. Of the 6,277 people currently working on the Olympic park, 20 per cent. are resident in the five host boroughs and 11 per cent. were previously unemployed.

Meanwhile, the free swimming scheme launched last year produced more than 10 million free swims in its first six months, our target of offering five hours sport per week to under-16s will be on offer in every school sports partnership in England by September 2010, more than 10,000 schools around the country have registered with the 2012 Get Set education programme, and a total of 5 million people have now participated in London 2012 Games-related projects.

I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of a memorandum of understanding between the Government and the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD). Under this MOU the Government will ensure that the OLD will receive a proportionate share, as laid down in the grant memorandum between OLD and ODA of any income received in relation to the Olympic village or other assets funded by OLD. This includes receipts from the disposal of the Olympic village which should repay the cashflow funding OLD expect to contribute to the village. This commitment applies whether such income is received by the ODA or another public body, or the rights and associated income are retained by the ODA or transferred to another public body.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest and support of the London 2012 Olympics.

Copies of the annual report 2010 are available at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Gender in the Labour Market

**The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird):** The Government's aim is to build a fair and family-friendly labour market where everyone has the opportunity to develop their skills and experience.

The action we have taken to improve the position of women in the workplace has provided sound foundations. Women now make up almost 46 per cent. of the economically active population and the difference in average hourly pay between men and women has narrowed significantly from 27.5 per cent. in 1997 to 22 per cent. in 2009. However, as the national equality panel reported last month, our labour market is still failing to make the best use of women's talents. The norm remains full-time work for an adult lifetime, which does not reflect the life experiences of women who still do the majority of caring responsibilities, nor, increasingly, of men who wish to do more.

The document we are publishing today, "Working Towards Equality: A Framework for Action", explains why a fair and family-friendly labour market is necessary to boost economic growth, support families and reduce child poverty. It responds to both the substance and specific recommendations of the 2009 women and work commission report, and sets out an action plan to ensure our labour market offers women genuine choices, equal opportunities and career structures which enable them to progress and to fulfil their potential. This includes commitments to challenge gender stereotyping in education, to investigate the barriers to sustainability in the child care sector and to stimulate the supply of quality part-time work.

We are placing copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 10 February 2010*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Government

**The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton):** On 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 14WS, I informed the House that the Boundary Committee had provided the advice requested on certain matters respectively relating to the unitary proposals (the "original proposals") made by Exeter city council, Ipswich borough council, and Norwich city council. In their advice the Boundary Committee put forward alternative proposals for a single unitary county authority for Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk, and in addition in the case of Suffolk proposed a further alternative of two unitary authorities covering the county area.

Following the end of a period for representations on 19 January 2010 to be made to the Secretary of State about the Boundary Committee's advice and original proposals, we have now taken our statutory decisions under section 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 on the unitary proposals relating to Devon and Norfolk. For the reasons explained below we decided not to take our statutory decisions on the proposals relating to Suffolk, and to invite the councils in Suffolk through a county constitutional convention to work together with their Members of Parliament to reach a consensus on a unitary pattern of local government for that area.

Under section 7 of the 2007 Act we can decide to implement, with or without modification, any of the unitary proposals before us, or to take no action on them. Owing to family connections with the Devon area, to avoid any perception of bias, the Secretary of State remitted decisions on unitary proposals for Devon to me.

We have considered each of the unitary proposals before us, both the alternative proposals made by the Boundary Committee and the original proposals, on its merits. We have sought to balance a number of factors in each case. We have had regard to the Boundary Committee's advice, all the representations we have received, and all other relevant information.

In the case of each proposal we have reached a judgment on it by reference to the five criteria—affordability, broad cross-section of support, strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment, and value for money and equity on services. Our presumption has been that where for an area there is one unitary proposal that meets the criteria, we will implement it, unless there are compelling reasons for the contrary; if there are several such proposals we will implement the one we judge to meet the criteria on leadership, neighbourhood empowerment, and value for money, to the greatest extent. Where we judged that a proposal does not meet all the five criteria, our presumption has been not to implement it unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.

Our assessment is that, contrary to the Boundary Committee's views, the alternative proposals for unitary county councils in Devon and Norfolk do not meet all the criteria. Our judgment is that there is not a reasonable likelihood, if these proposals were implemented, of their delivering the outcomes specified by the broad cross-section of support criterion. I also judged that if a unitary council for Devon were implemented there is also not a reasonable likelihood of it delivering the outcomes specified by the neighbourhood engagement criterion. Accordingly, we have decided to take no action on these proposals.

In his statement to the House of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 66WS, the then Minister for Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), stated that the Secretary of State judged that the unitary proposals for Exeter and Norwich would, if implemented, not be reasonably likely to deliver the outcomes specified by the affordability criterion, nor in the case of Norwich the outcomes specified by the value for money services criterion. The then Secretary of State also judged that these proposals, if implemented, would be reasonably likely to deliver the outcomes specified by the other criteria.

We have considered these proposals afresh against the criteria and our assessment is the same as my right hon. Friends in December 2007. However, we consider that in both cases there are compelling reasons to depart from the presumption that unitary proposals which do not meet all five criteria are not to be implemented.

In both cases these reasons are twofold.

First, the Government's priorities today are, above all, for jobs and economic growth. Local government has an essential role to play in delivering these economic priorities, and this role is of a significance that could not be contemplated in 2006 when the criteria were developed. We believe, as has been made clear to us by the representations we have received, that a unitary Exeter and a unitary Norwich would each be a far more potent force for delivering positive economic outcomes both for the city and more widely than the status quo two-tier local government.

Secondly, with today's approach to developing public service delivery, as envisaged by our Command Paper—"Putting the Frontline First"—announced by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1WS, including the Total Place approach, a unitary Exeter and a unitary Norwich could open the way for improvements to the quality of public services. Through innovative shared services and partnership arrangements the public services for the cities will be able to be tailored to the needs of the urban area while still being able to achieve the economies of scale that are possible under the countywide delivery of such services as adult social care and children's services.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State in the case of Norwich, and I in the case of Exeter, have decided, subject to Parliamentary approval, to implement a unitary council for each of these cities from 1 April 2011. In accordance with the 2007 Act we are thus laying before

Parliament today drafts of orders, which if approved by Parliament, we will make to give effect to our decisions to create a unitary Exeter and a unitary Norwich.

The draft orders make provision not only for the creation of the new unitary councils, but also for appropriate transitional arrangements. These arrangements reflect both the experience we have gained from implementing the nine new unitary councils on 1 April 2009, and also the discussions we have offered this year to all councils potentially affected by any of the unitary proposals before us. In particular the draft orders are providing for the 2010 elections to Exeter and Norwich city councils to be cancelled and for subsequent whole council elections to the new unitary councils to take place in 2011.

Preparations for the new unitaries will be the responsibility of an implementation executive made up of existing councillors from both the city and county councils. We are committed to applying the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) which will ensure that employees who transfer to the new unitary councils will do so with their terms and conditions protected on transfer. We expect the affected councils to have early discussions with the trade unions on staffing issues arising from restructuring.

Recognising the importance and scope for innovative service delivery we will be inviting all existing councils in Devon and Norfolk to work together and with Government to develop the new service delivery models which, with the advent of unitary councils for the cities, will enable the best quality and most efficient public services to be provided both to the cities and the wider county areas. In developing these models we will be looking to maximise the new freedoms and flexibilities on offer in our Command Paper.

We share the Boundary Committee's assessment that the alternative proposals they have put forward for Suffolk meet the criteria, the proposal for a single unitary county, to the greater extent. We have also assessed afresh the unitary proposal made by Ipswich borough council and have concluded that we share the view the Secretary of State reached in December 2007 that this proposal, if it were implemented, would not be reasonably likely to deliver the outcomes specified by the affordability criterion.

From the representations we have received it is clear that there is wide agreement across the county that there should be a unitary solution in some form. However, it is equally clear that neither of the unitary proposals which we consider meet the criteria is supported by all the principal councils in the county. Accordingly, we have concluded not now to take a statutory decision on the Suffolk proposals before us, and to invite all the Suffolk councils, with their Members of Parliament, consulting other stakeholders and through a county constitutional convention, to reach a consensus on a unitary solution for that area.

We are clear that the decisions that we have taken are in the best interests of the people for the areas concerned. They recognise the genuine local appetite for unitary Government in the cities of Exeter and Norwich. They provide a robust framework for the future prosperity of those cities and surrounding county areas. They open the way to better and more efficient public services. This potential will be delivered through the commitment and collaboration of all councils involved—this is what local people will rightly expect.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Medical Rehabilitation (Ward Beds)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones):** The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, provides first-class rehabilitation treatment for service personnel, most notably for operational casualties at the present time, but also for a range of other patients. Many of its patients, particularly those who have suffered severe injuries, need to return to the unit for further treatment at intervals, often over a period of years.

We keep the number of beds required under regular review. The unit's facilities currently include 66 ward beds and 120 other beds for patients. As prudent contingency planning, we propose to increase the number of ward beds available in the near to medium-term. We are therefore now working on plans to provide up to 30 extra ward beds later this year, as well as updating and expanding our existing clinical facilities at Headley Court in the longer-term. Planning permission for new buildings will be sought in the normal way.

We are determined to ensure that the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre continues to provide the excellent service that our armed forces deserve. I shall inform the House when final decisions on our requirements for additional ward beds have been made.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies):** I wish to update the House on recent developments related to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

I announced the start of a review of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS. Today I am publishing the report of this review.

The review was part of a Government recommendation that public bodies are subjected to periodic study to ensure that they are still delivering high quality services and are adequately resourced. The review was carried out by independent consultants led by Sir Neil Chalmers, Warden of Wadham College Oxford, on behalf of DEFRA, who gathered evidence from individuals and organisations with an interest in the work of the RBG, Kew.

The report focused on whether Kew has been effectively fulfilling its statutory obligations under the National Heritage Act 1983 since 2001 (the date of the last review) considered sustainable funding options in the present economic climate, examined the effectiveness of the delivery of Kew's science programme, issues of maintaining the heritage buildings, improving the visitor experience and aspects of governance and sponsorship by the Government. It concluded that Kew has been fulfilling its statutory functions since 2001 and that DEFRA should remain lead sponsor for Kew but put forward a number of recommendations for financial and organisational remedies to sustain Kew as a centre of world-class science and as a major, iconic visitor attraction and a world heritage site.

The report does not constitute DEFRA policy. DEFRA officials will now examine the recommendations proposed in the report in more detail and will explore their financial and organisational implications, including consultation with other Government Departments. I intend to publish a Government response later in the year.

Copies of the full report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and an electronic copy can be downloaded from the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/partners/kew/index.htm

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office Finances

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The House has recently expressed interest in the financing of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The FCO is working to manage the impact on the purchasing power of its budget next year caused by changes in the value of sterling. That impact is over £100 million in the current financial year and an estimated £110 million in the year ahead.

The FCO has now agreed with Her Majesty's Treasury a range of measures to help manage these pressures in the next financial year:

an additional £25 million from asset sales will be recycled into the FCO's budget;

a further £35 million to the FCO will be made available from the reserve, of which £20 million would form a foreign exchange adjustment account to manage the impact of currency movement to be drawn on in agreement with Her Majesty's Treasury;

a further £15 million in end year flexibility will be made available, focused on restructuring and modernisation costs subject to a business case being made.

In addition, I have agreed with other parts of the FCO family, including the British Council, BBC World Service and FCO Services Trading Fund, that they will make a contribution to help manage these pressures. A broad programme of streamlining and cost-savings will also be implemented within the FCO's own operating spending to reduce further back-office costs, implement more innovative working practices, and review staff allowances. This package of measures will substantially offset the foreign exchange pressures on the FCO budget.

In common with other Government Departments, the FCO is committed to delivering increased efficiency which will require further cost reductions and rigorous prioritisation, including in areas of programme spending. Good progress is being made. On this basis, I am confident that the FCO will continue to deliver a world-class and comprehensive diplomatic service for the UK, and that the Government's highest foreign policy priorities, including our counter-terrorism programme, will continue to be funded effectively.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Immigration and Nationality Services

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas):** On 20 January 2010 I laid the regulations that set fees for immigration and nationality services that are above the normal administrative cost of providing the service. I am today laying regulations for fees that are set at or below the cost of processing. The Government review the fees on a regular basis and make appropriate changes as necessary.

These fees are set out in regulations and are subject to the negative procedure. The fees contained in these regulations are set at, or below the administrative cost of an application or process, in line with the Government's charging model. By charging below the administrative cost of delivery on the application types referred to in this instrument, the UK Border Agency is able to support wider Government objectives, particularly where it is believed that a cost recovery fee would be so high as to damage international competitiveness in this area, (e.g. for short term visit visa applications, tier 5 temporary work applications). To help enable this, the UK Border Agency sets fees for other application types above the cost of delivery. For transparency, I have included the estimated unit cost for each route, so that it is clear the degree to which certain routes are set at or below cost.

We have succeeded in limiting the extent of our general increases by taking a more targeted approach to fees adjustment which is consistent with both the UK Border Agency's strategic charging principles, and also with broader Government objectives. We have made amendments to the tier 4 (student) visa fee, introduced a fee for sponsor action plans and we have proposed a nominal 10 per cent. fee for all applications for UK-based dependants to reflect the fact that each individual brings a processing cost to us. Finally, we will continue to generate revenue to fund the transitional impacts of migration. The migration impacts fund has played a vital role in helping ease the pressures on certain communities. Full details of all fees changes are outlined in the explanatory memorandum accompanying these regulations.

I believe our proposals continue to strike the right balance between maintaining secure and effective border controls and ensuring that our fees structure does not inhibit the UK's ability to attract those migrants and visitors who make a valued contribution. It is right that those who benefit directly from the immigration system should pay to meet the costs of securing the UK's borders. This will help to support the immigration system, maintain public confidence, and ensure that migration is managed for the benefit of the UK.

Full details on how to apply for all of these services will be provided on our website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

The table below details fees for 2010-11 for immigration and nationality services that are set at or below the normal administrative costs of the service.

*Visa Fees*

| *Products* | *2009-10 Fees (£)* | *Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11* | *Proposed Fee for 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Non PBS Visas* | | | |
| Short term visitor visa | 67 | 140 | 68 |
| Transit Visa | 46 | 94 | 47 |
| Certificate of Entitlement | 215 | 244 | 220 |
| Vignette Transfer Fee | 75 | 93 | 75 |
| Call out/out of hours fee | £128 per hour up to a max of £922 a day | 134/hr | 130/hour up to a max of £939 a day |
| *PBS Visas* | | | |
| T1 (Post Study) * | 265 | 344 | 315 |
| T1 (Transition) | 250 | 332 | 256 |
| T1 (Transition) CESC | 230 | 332 | 235 |
| T4 ** | 145 | 242 | 199 |
| T5 | 125 | 173 | 128 |
| T5 (CESC) | 110 | 173 | 112 |

* The fees for these applications include a contribution of £50 per person to the migration impacts fund.

** The fees for T4 applications include a contribution of £20 per person to the migration impacts fund.

*In UK - Leave To Remain And Nationality Fees*

| *Products* | *2009-10 Fees (£)* | *Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11* | *Proposed Fee for 2010-11* | *Dependents Fee* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Non PBS Routes - Migrants Inside UK* | | | | |
| Certificate of Approval (Fee not charged) | 295 | 318 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfer of Conditions Postal | 165 | 381 | 169 | 16 |
| Travel Documents Adult (CoT) | 215 | 246 | 220 | N/A |
| Travel Documents Adult CTD | 72 | 246 | 77.5 | N/A |
| Travel Documents Child (CoT) | 135 | 231 | 138 | N/A |
| Travel Documents Child CTD | 46 | 255 | 49 | N/A |
| Replacement BID | 30 | 35 | 30 | N/A |
| Call out/out of hours fee | £128/hour up to a max of £922/day | 134/hr | 130/hour up to a max of £939/day | N/A |
| Work Permit Technical Changes | 20 | 116 | 20 | N/A |
| *Nationality applications- Migrants Inside UK* | | | | |
| Renunciation of Nationality | 395 | 208 | 208 | N/A |
| Nationality Right of Abode | 140 | 149 | 143 | N/A |
| Re-issued Certificates of Nationality | 75 | 178 | 76 | N/A |
| Nationality Reconsideration Fee | 0 | 100 | 100 | N/A |
| Status Letter (Nationality) | 75 | 107 | 76 | N/A |
| Non Acquisition Letter (Nationality) | 75 | 107 | 76 | N/A |
| Status Letter (Immigration) | 75 | 107 | 76 | N/A |

*In -UK PBS Fees*

| *Products* | *2009-10 Fees (£)* | *Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11* | *Proposed Fee for 2010-11* | *Dependents Fee* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PBS – Migrants Inside UK* | | | | |
| T4 - Postal * | 357 | 357 | 357 | 80 |
| T5 – Postal | 125 | 359 | 128 | 12 |
| T5 CESC Postal | 110 | 380 | 112 | 11 |

* The fees for these applications include a contribution of £50 per person to the migration impacts fund.

*PBS Sponsorship Fees*

| *Products* | *2009-10 Fees (£)* | *Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11* | *Proposed Fee for 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *PBS Sponsorship Fees* | | | |
| T2 Sponsor licence - small business | 300 | 880 | 300 |
| T4 Sponsor licence | 400 | 950 | 400 |
| T5 Sponsor licence | 400 | 880 | 400 |
| T2 & 4 Sponsor licence - small business | 400 | 950 | 400 |
| T2 & 5 Sponsor licence - small business | 400 | 880 | 400 |
| T4 & 5 Sponsor licence | 400 | 950 | 400 |
| T2, 4 & 5 Sponsor licence - small business | 400 | 950 | 400 |
| T2 & T4, T5 Licence - Medium/Large Sponsor, where they currently hold T4 &/or T5 Licence | 600 | 950 | 600 |

*PBS Sponsorship Fees*

| *Products* | *2009-10 Fees (£)* | *Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11* | *Proposed Fee for 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| T4 &/or T5 Licence - Small Sponsor, where they currently hold T2 Licence | 100 | 950 | 100 |
| T4 Certificate of Acceptance of Studies | 10 | 25 | 10 |
| T5 Certificate of Sponsorship | 10 | 25 | 10 |
| Sponsorship Action Plans | 0 | 600 | 600 |

## Tier 4: Student Visas

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a review of tier 4 (the student route under our points-based system for controlling migration) on 12 November 2009, I am today announcing a balanced and targeted package of measures to tackle the abuse of tier 4 by economic migrants while at the same time continuing to safeguard the ability of genuine international students to come to the UK to benefit from our world class education system and bring benefit to our economy.

The measures outlined below target abuse seen among adult students coming here to study below degree level in the further education and English language sectors. There are no changes for students who come here to study a foundation degree, courses at degree level or above or for those coming here as child students at our independent schools (except for a reduction in the number of hours a child student aged 16 or 17 may work to 10 hours per week) and the changes set out do not apply to these groups.

The review highlighted concerns about the numbers of individuals who were not serious about studying in the UK but who were primarily using tier 4 as a route to work. There were also concerns about dependants who have also historically enjoyed the right to work in the UK. While it is right that students should be able to undertake some work while in the UK to support themselves during their course, we need to ensure that the route is not abused by those whose primary intention is to enter the UK labour market. I am therefore today laying changes to the immigration rules which will:

halve the amount of time students can work during term time from 20 to 10 hours a week;

ban students who are studying on courses of six months or less from bringing their dependants with them to the UK; and

ban students' dependants from working unless they qualify in their own right under tier 1 (General) as a highly skilled migrant or as a skilled worker under tier 2 (General), sportsperson or minister of religion.

All of these changes will come into force on 3 March 2010 and all tier 4 applications submitted on or after this date will be subject to the new restrictions.

In respect of English language courses, I am also announcing today that, from 3 March, we will change tier 4 Guidance to raise the minimum level of English language course which can be studied under tier 4 from A2 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) to B2—this is roughly the equivalent of GCSE standard. This is to ensure that tier 4 is less open to abuse from economic migrants seeking to exploit English language courses which have low entry requirements. There will, however, be exemptions from this for students sponsored by overseas Governments and for students on pre-sessional English language courses which prepare them for full degree courses, as these students are lower risk.

For the future, we also want to improve the security of the tests by which English language students are asked to demonstrate proficiency in English language. We are currently reviewing the criteria that approved providers will be required to meet, and will be introducing new arrangements for formal English language testing for tier 4 by early summer.

The review also looked fundamentally at the levels and types of courses which foreign students should be able to come to the UK to undertake through tier 4 of the points-based system. It concluded that changes needed to be made in a number of areas.

First, the review highlighted concerns that students were coming to study below degree level with a very low level of proficiency in the English language. This cannot be right. In addition, therefore, such students, in addition to those coming for English language courses, will be required to undertake a test with one of our approved test providers to demonstrate English language proficiency to at least level Bl on the CEFR when we introduce this in the summer.

Secondly, in respect of lower level and work placement courses, the Government have previously set out their intention to introduce a new category of "Highly Trusted Sponsor" under the points-based system sponsorship arrangements. This new category of sponsor will be implemented on 6 April following a period of consultation with the education sector on the criteria against which sponsors wishing to be rated as "highly trusted" will be judged. In the first instance, publicly funded institutions will be treated as "highly trusted" but removed from this category should the UK Border Agency judge that they do not meet the criteria set; privately funded institutions will need to apply to the UK Border Agency to become highly trusted sponsors.

Following our review of tier 4, I can also announce that, from 6 April, only those with highly trusted status will be able to offer courses at National Qualifications Framework Level 3 (and its equivalents) and courses with work placements below degree level. Such courses are attractive to economic migrants and as such we believe they should only be offered by sponsors with a strong record of student compliance.

These measures will improve our control of tier 4 but should do little to deter genuine students whose main focus is study.

## UK Border Agency (Tuberculosis)

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas):** I would like to take this opportunity to update the House on the progress of the UK Border Agency pilot to pre-screen entry clearance applicants for active cases of tuberculosis to address the problem of imported infection. The pilot was initiated in late 2005 and has been testing pre-entry screening as a possible alternative, or supplement, to the long-established practice of X-ray screening passengers arriving at UK ports from high-risk countries. The pilot has been managed with the Department of Health and Health Protection Agency and requires those wishing to come to the United Kingdom for more than six months, from specified countries where there is a high incidence of TB, to undertake screening prior to applying for a visa overseas. The countries concerned are: Bangladesh, Ghana (which also takes applications from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Niger), Kenya (which also take applications from residents of Eritrea and Somalia), Pakistan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Thailand (which also takes applications from Cambodia and Laos). The International Organization for Migration, who run similar projects for other countries around the world, were contracted to provide the screening facilities.

We are currently carrying out a final evaluation of the pilot and expect to reach decisions about the future of pre-entry screening in the near future. Screening was implemented in pilot countries on a phased basis, and the screening methodology was strengthened during the pilot as a more reliable sputum culture process for detecting active tuberculosis became available. I want to share with the House the principal statistical information produced by the pilot, to inform subsequent thinking and discussion about the screening arrangements. The following table provides the total number of positive TB cases identified through the pre-entry screening programme, since inception in 2005, against the total number of individuals screened.

*Pre-entry TB screening (October 2005 - September 2009)*

| | *Total Screened* | *Total Positive* |
|---|---|---|
| Pre-entry TB screening Oct 2005 - September 2009 | 325,507 | 191 |

To place these figures in context, there were a total 8,655 cases of active tuberculosis cases in the UK in 2008. The evidence suggests that in the majority of these cases the infection originated overseas, but the available data do not show whether the carriers were returning UK residents who had visited countries with a high prevalence of TB, EEA nationals or persons subject to immigration control. Data are not currently collected centrally on the number of active TB cases detected among arriving passengers as a consequence of community health referrals made by port medical inspection teams. The advice from the Health Protection Agency is that many of those who develop actively infectious TB, do so more than two years after their last entry to the United Kingdom. There is no scientifically recognised screening method for predicting whether individuals will go on to develop active TB during their lifetime. We intend to take stock of the available evidence, together with comparative data from other countries which screen for TB as part of their immigration control arrangements, later this year. The Department of Health has in place a comprehensive action plan to detect and combat TB in the community.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper):** I am publishing today a consultation document on proposals to improve the tracing of employers' liability insurance policies, and establish a fund of last resort to make payments in cases where employers are insolvent and insurers cannot be traced.

Today, Britain is rightly recognised as having one of the best health and safety records in the world. This was not always the case though and good health and safety has not always been a priority for business. A key step for employees was therefore the introduction of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969. This landmark legislation has helped to ensure that the vast majority of those who are injured or made ill as a result of employment, are able to receive appropriate compensation.

We know, however, that in some cases—particularly cases where a disease develops many years after exposure—it can be very difficult to identify the relevant insurer. This includes some of the most serious industrial diseases, such as pneumoconiosis, caused by exposure to coal dust, and asbestos-related cancers.

In 1999 we launched, in conjunction with the insurance industry, a voluntary code of practice to help trace these policies where other routes had failed. The code has led to some improvements but too many people still are not able to secure the compensation they deserve. This is not acceptable and we believe that more must be done. The consultation document sets out two further measures to improve this situation.

We believe that an essential first step is the creation of an employers' liability tracing office, to manage an electronic database of EL policies and to operate the tracing service. We will be seeking to work with the Association of British Insurers and others to drive this forward, informed by the outcome of the consultation. We envisage that the database, initially, will be voluntary, but become mandatory in time, to ensure that all insurers publish the relevant policy details. We expect the Financial Services Authority to consult shortly on ways to make the provision of policy information mandatory.

A tracing office will have to be populated initially with existing trace data, but new and renewed policies will be included shortly afterwards. One of the issues explored in the consultation is the extent to which historic insurance records can be added to the database.

While a tracing office will ensure that, in future, more people can obtain civil damages for industrial disease, we also know from experience that it still may be very difficult to trace historic policies, especially for those individuals suffering from long-tail diseases such as mesothelioma. Therefore, we propose also to establish an employers' liability insurance bureau, which will provide a fund of last resort in cases where all other efforts to trace an employer or insurer have failed. This will, for example, give peace of mind to many workers who know that they were exposed to asbestos but who do not now have symptoms. They will have confidence, that if they later develop an asbestos-related disease, they will be able to claim the civil compensation to which they are entitled.

The consultation launched today will examine what the bureau should cover; the impact on insurers and employers; how much should be paid by way of compensation; and limitations on claiming from the bureau. The Government will consider fully the responses to the consultation before determining next steps towards the bureau's introduction.

We believe that the changes we are proposing will make a real difference to the lives of people who suffer from these terrible work-related diseases, and to their families.

The consultation will run from 12 weeks from today, in line with the Government code of practice on consultation.

The consultation document is available on DWP's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations.

Copies will be placed in the Vote Office and deposited in the House Library.

# Petition

*Monday 1 February 2010*

## OBSERVATIONS

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Planning and Development (Sutton)

*The Petition of residents living in Belmont, Cheam, Sutton, Stoneleigh and Worcester Park in the London Borough of Sutton, and others,*

Declares that the quality of life of residents is harmed by the designation of garden land as brownfield land, because it allows inappropriate development to take place. Suburban back gardens have ecological, environmental and social value that should be protected from unwanted development.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to change planning policy guidance and planning law to allow local councils to develop and implement planning policies that protect private gardens from development which is out of character with the surrounding area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report, 4 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 942 .]*

[P000313]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

During the passage of the Planning Act in November 2008, the Government committed to carry out a review to establish the nature and extent of development on garden land. We said that if the evidence confirmed a problem we would look at how best to remedy the situation, provided that any changes should not have the effect of undermining our policy objectives on housing. On 19 January the Government published the results of the review and announced that planning policy statement 3 had been strengthened, to make it clear that there is no presumption that land that is previously developed is suitable for development, or that all of the curtilage should be developed.

In doing so we have reinforced the message in planning policy statement 3 that local authorities are best placed to consider whether different types of land are suitable for housing. The power to take the decision on whether to grant applications for development on gardens lies with local authorities. The local authorities need to be able to defend decisions on any planning application, whether for garden land or otherwise, based on established strong local policies.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 2 February 2010*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Bury St. Edmunds)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Bury St. Edmunds parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000727]

### Badman Report (Leominster)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Leominster parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bill Wiggin .]*

[P000728]

## OBSERVATIONS

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Use of Premises (Essex)

*The Petition of residents of Carlton Drive and surrounding areas,*

Declares that a property in Carlton Drive is being used as an illegal brothel under the name A13 Bliss; that the Petitioners are deeply concerned about the impact of this activity in an otherwise quiet and respectable residential area, that they are further concerned about the danger and intimidation this brings to residents and young people in the area and that they welcome the actions of the Council and police to investigate and deal with this matter under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the so called Brothels Act 2007

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons implores the Government to encourage Castle Point Borough Council, Essex Police and HM Revenue and Customs, to take urgent and tough action to immediately end the improper use of the property in this otherwise quiet and respectable residential area and take appropriate action against anyone who is breaking the law.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 1 December 2009; Vol. 501, c. 1079 .]

[P000441]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:*

The Government understand that the presence of brothels in certain areas, especially areas that are largely residential, can be a source of distress for people living locally. Where local people have concerns about a particular property it is right that the police, and where necessary the local authority, investigate the property and take action if appropriate.

Under section 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, the police are able to close down a property for a period of three months and prevent particular people from entering if the property is linked to antisocial behaviour or the use of class A drugs. Under measures introduced by the Policing and Crime Act 2009, the police will also have similar powers to close a property if it is associated with certain sexual offences. It is also an offence to keep a brothel or control prostitution.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 9 February 2010*

## OBSERVATIONS

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Incinerator (Gloucester)

*The Petition of residents of Gloucester and surrounding areas, and others,*

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the County Council is proposing to build a large scale incinerator in or around Gloucester capable of burning 175,000 tonnes of waste, much of which could be imported from around the country.

Further declares that the Petitioners believe that other options have not been given sufficient consideration, and that local councillors should oppose incineration and should consider other more environmentally friendly options instead.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to call upon the City and County Councils to rule out incineration from Gloucestershire's waste plan.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Parmjit Dhanda, Official Report,* 13 January 2010; Vol. 503, c. 801.]

[P000708]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:*

Government have made funding available to Gloucestershire County Council through the allocation of PFI credits, however the choice of technology and the location is a local matter. It is for local authorities to decide how to manage waste in their area, and rightly so. It is important that plans for all waste facilities emerge from local waste strategies and plans, so that all options for reuse, recycling and composting can be explored first. Gloucestershire's waste authorities have already developed and adopted a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007) which is their route map for the management of household waste.

I would like to clarify that as part of the application process DEFRA requires all authorities to submit a plan based on a theoretical model that uses real figures and facts to demonstrate the project is robust enough to proceed. The choice of technology will be driven by detailed waste flow modelling that will determine the size of the facility/facilities required to meet the authority's waste management objectives. This reference case does not mean that the technology, size or location for the waste PFI project has been decided but is used to guide the procurement process. At the time of approval the size of the proposed facility was considered appropriate for dealing with the amount of residual waste which the county council expected it will have to deal with over the life of the contract, taking into account planned minimisation, recycling and composting activities.

It is my understanding that Gloucestershire County Council's waste project is currently subject to an ongoing procurement process, and proposals for technology and location will be set out in the contractors bids. The eventual outcome of this procurement will be a decision for the council to make and any new facilities will be subject to a planning application.

The Government are strongly committed to managing waste in the most sustainable way. This means as far up the waste hierarchy as possible, with energy from waste ranking higher than landfill but below waste prevention, reuse and recycling. Generating renewable energy from waste (including via combustion) can offer a considerable climate change benefit compared to the alternative of landfill.

Based on the application received from Gloucestershire County Council, it is clear that the PFI project has the potential to make an important contribution to meeting the UK's climate change objectives, deliver much needed infrastructure and provide potential employment opportunities in the local area.

### New Ferry Butterfly Park

*The Petition of residents of Wirral South and others,*

Declares that the Petitioners object to the threatened closure of New Ferry Butterfly Park.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to encourage Wirral council and others to do all they can to secure the retention of the Butterfly Park.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 12 January 2010; Vol. 503, c. 659.]

[P000699]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:*

The Government understand that Wirral Metropolitan borough council has agreed to make a compulsory purchase order with a view to ensuring that the New Ferry Butterfly Park remains a wildlife reserve, although it continues to seek a resolution of this matter directly with the site's owners. As a compulsory purchase order may be submitted in due course to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for confirmation, it may be considered prejudicial for the Government to comment further at this stage.

# Petitions

*Wednesday 10 February 2010*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 9 February 2010 but not read on the Floor*

### Badman Report (Hexham)

*The Petition of persons resident in the Hexham parliamentary constituency,*

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Atkinson.]*

[P000735]

*Petition presented to the House on Wednesday 10 February 2010 but not read on the Floor*

### Incinerators (Tatton)

*The Petition of Stop Incinerators in Disguise (S.I.D) in the constituency of Tatton in Cheshire,*

Declares that they want to stop the building of an incinerator (Waste Treatment Plant) at New Cheshire Business Park in Wincham.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State responsible for local government to put pressure on the local authority to reject the plans to build an incinerator in the area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. George Osborne.]*

[P000730]

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 1 February 2010*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312828]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of staff in each management layer and the amount spent on salaries and associated employment costs in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its agencies is set out in the following table. Please note that the NIO (core) accounting system does not detail individual grade costs within the SCS grade, B grade and D grade. Salaries and associated employment costs include salaries and wages, employers national insurance contributions and employers' pension costs.

*Northern Ireland Office (core Department)*

| *Grade* | *Staff numbers (actual staff numbers not full-time equivalent)* | *Salary and associated costs 2008-09 (rounded to nearest £)* |
|---|---|---|
| Permanent Secretary (SCS) | 1 | |
| Director General (SCS) | 2 | |
| Director (SCS) | 9 | |
| Deputy Director (SCS) | 22 | 5,024,790 |
| Grade A | 156 | 8,956,203 |
| Grade B1 | 201 | |
| Grade B2 | 165 | 14,658,159 |
| Grade C | 263 | 7,992,110 |
| Grade D1 | 292 | |
| Grade D2 | 169 | 8,922,290 |

*Compensation Agency*

| *Grade* | *Staff numbers (actual staff numbers not full-time equivalent)* | *Salary and associated costs 2008-09 (rounded to nearest £)* |
|---|---|---|
| Deputy Director (SCS) | 1 | 86,357 |
| Grade A | 5 | 236,790 |
| Grade B1 | 3 | 131,967 |
| Grade B2 | 10 | 392,910 |
| Grade C | 22 | 600,180 |
| Grade D1 | 21 | 414,414 |
| Grade D2 | 13 | 224,180 |

*Youth Justice Agency*

| *Grade* | *Staff numbers (actual staff numbers not full-time equivalent)* | *Salary and associated costs 2008-09 (rounded to nearest £)* |
|---|---|---|
| *Civil servants* | | |
| Deputy Director (SCS) | 1 | 95,085 |
| Grade A | 2 | 128,360 |
| Grade B1 | 5 | 267,442 |
| Grade B2 | 14 | 459,524 |
| Grade C | 14 | 329,950 |
| Grade D1 | 43 | 731,226 |
| *Non-civil servants* | | |
| Director (Grade A) | 2 | 131,584 |
| Assistant Director/Other Management (Grade B1) | 11 | 508,089 |
| Project Managers/Managers (Grade B2) | 93 | 3,668,733 |
| Teacher/Driver/Instructor/ Social Workers (Grade C) | 98 | 2,541,551 |
| Care workers/ domestic staff (Grade D1) | 113 | 3 791,885 |

*Note:*
In addition the YJA also pay an annual service charge of £1,132,000 in relation to the NILGOSC pension scheme.

*Forensic Science NI*

| *Grade* | *Staff numbers (actual staff numbers not full-time equivalent)* | *Salary and associated costs 2008-09 (rounded to nearest £)* |
|---|---|---|
| Deputy Director (SCS) | 1 | 111,833 |
| Grade A | 14 | 894,077 |
| Grade B1 | 47 | 2,159,183 |
| Grade B2 | 28 | 810,142 |
| Grade C | 42 | 1,099,520 |
| Grade D1 | 53 | 809,903 |
| Grade D2 | 5 | 94,383 |

*Northern Ireland Prison Service*

| *Grade* | *Staff numbers (actual staff numbers not full-time equivalent)* | *Salary and associated costs 2008-09 (rounded to nearest £)* |
|---|---|---|
| *Admin grades* | | |
| Director (SCS) | 1 | 149,276 |
| Deputy Director (SCS) | 3 | 316,874 |
| Grade A | 27 | 1,290,107 |
| Grade B1 | 35 | 1,660,818 |
| Grade B2 | 81 | 2,527,984 |
| Grade C | 112 | 2,554,263 |
| Grade D1 | 124 | 2,444,403 |
| Grade D2 | 34 | 660,205 |
| *Uniform grades* | | |
| Governor 1 | 2 | 209,037 |
| Governor 2 | 4 | 381,405 |
| Governor 3 | 4 | 221,705 |
| Governor 4 | 15 | 878,309 |
| Governor 5 | 22 | 1,399,973 |
| Principal Officer | 72 | 4,087,388 |
| Senior Officer/Senior PCO | 176/15 | 8,865,298/320,139 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313850]

**Paul Goggins:** The Department is unaware of the current employment status of staff who have been "managed out".

### Departmental Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301185]

**Paul Goggins:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement regarding the cost of ministerial cars made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS.

The cost of providing official cars from the Government Car and Despatch Agency to Northern Ireland Office (NIO) Ministers in 2008-09 was £286,200.

The cost of providing official cars from the Government Car and Despatch Agency to NIO Officials in 2008-09 was £71,769.

### Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-22W, on departmental pay, how many and what proportion of staff of his Department received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; what proportion of staff received no bonus; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313130]

**Paul Goggins:** 13 per cent. of staff in the Northern Ireland Office, 264 in total, received a non-consolidated performance payment and a special performance payment in 2008-09. The combined largest bonus was £2,040. 36 per cent. of staff did not receive either of these payments. Performance payment recommendations are made by line managers and are approved by Directors in each business area.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313673]

**Paul Goggins:** The information is not held in the format requested.

Between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) answered 73 per cent. of ordinary written questions on time.

Over the same period, 79 per cent. of named day questions were answered on time.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on performance. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees in his Department are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313235]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not employ staff. All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**John Austin:** To ask the Prime Minister what further consideration he has given to the matters raised in the letters from the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead of 15 April, 28 May and 8 December 2009 on the treatment of compensation payments and calculation of benefits in respect of service personnel killed in action. [313124]

**The Prime Minister:** I have asked my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman) to meet my hon. Friend to discuss these matters.

## WALES

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by his Department to pay invoices from *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* all creditors in the last 12 months. [315126]

**Mr. Hain:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 18 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 8W. Payment of all invoices is monitored and published in our departmental annual report, a copy of which can be found in the Library.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees in his Department are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313250]

**Mr. Hain:** Nil.

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 215W, on industrial health and safety, if he will place in the Library a copy of the induction pack issued to new starters within his Department. [314018]

**Mr. Hain:** My Department's Induction Pack also contains the names and contact details of staff; information on security and evacuation procedures, and other sensitive information. On this basis, I am afraid that I am unable to place a copy in the Library of the House.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Departmental Advertising

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309933]

**Dan Norris:** The Department's estimated advertising spend for 2009-10 in the media specified is outlined in the table. Expenditure on advertising in these media for 2010-11 has yet to be agreed.

| *Medium* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Television | 0 |
| Radio | 500,000 |
| Print—campaigns | 1,000,000 |
| Print—recruitment and statutory notices | 30,000 |
| Online advertising | 180,000 |

### Departmental Billing

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311259]

**Dan Norris:** In December 2009 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs paid 99.92 per cent. of invoices within 10 days.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305867]

**Dan Norris:** Information on the conferences overseas attended by civil servants and the cost of such attendance could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Disclosure of Information

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313224]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA's agencies and NDPBs make most of their information available free of charge for non-commercial use. In some cases a small charge, to recover the marginal cost of supply, is levied. The Environment Agency, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and CEFAS supply some of their data on a commercial basis for which a charge is made in accordance with the reuse of public sector information regulations.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Bars

**Michael Fabricant:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what dates *(a)* Bellamy's Bar, *(b)* Bellamy's Club Room and *(c)* the Astor Suite have been refurbished since 1997; and what the cost was of each such refurbishment. [313557]

**Nick Harvey:** Since 1997, *(a)* Bellamy's Bar, *(b)* Bellamy's Club Room and *(c)* the Astor Suite have been refurbished once. The refurbishment spanned two years: the Astor Suite and the Club Room (part) in summer 2007; the bar and completion of the Club Room in summer 2008. The total cost of the refurbishment was £480,000 including fees and furnishings.

Of the £480,000 spent on the refurbishment, it is estimated that approximately £168,000 of the work would be of continuing benefit in a new child care facility and efforts would be made to reuse the furniture which was provided at a cost of £66,000.

### Departmental Manpower

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W, on manpower, for what reasons the comparable information for 2000-01 to 2006-07 is not available. [312687]

**Nick Harvey:** Detailed data of this nature are normally held only for the current year and the three prior financial years in accordance with the parliamentary authorised records disposal practice.

### Food: Salt

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that all House of Commons food outlets mark salt awareness week from 1 to 7 February 2010; and if he will make a statement. [314210]

**Nick Harvey:** The House of Commons Catering and Retail Services will be marking Salt Awareness Week from 1-7 February 2010 in the cafeterias by displaying notices publicising salt awareness week and reminding customers that, routinely, a lower sodium product is substituted for salt in the preparation of the dishes.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years; [313994]

(2) how many consultants his Department and its agency employed in each of the last 10 years; and how many hours were worked by such consultants for his Department and its agencies in each such year. [314015]

**Mr. Simon:** The number of consultancy firms used by the Department, and by the Royal Parks, and the total associated cost, is set out in the table. The information for the Royal Parks includes all forms of consultancy, including arboriculture and ecology. Information on the number of consultants engaged, and the hours worked, is not available. Information on reimbursable expenses could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| | DCMS | | Royal Parks | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *Number of consultancy firms engaged* | *Spend (£000)* | *Number of consultancy firms* | *Spend (£000)* |
| 2008-09 | 17 | 1,220 | 107 | 111 |
| 2007-08 | 15 | 1,163 | 95 | 883 |
| 2006-07 | 13 | 886 | 65 | 834 |
| 2005-06 | 9 | 1,161 | 74 | 574 |
| 2004-05 | 16 | 644 | 75 | 626 |

| | DCMS | | Royal Parks | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *Number of consultancy firms engaged* | *Spend (£000)* | *Number of consultancy firms* | *Spend (£000)* |
| 2003-04 | 7 | 474 | 75 | 566 |
| 2002-03 | 6 | 469 | 39 | 632 |
| 2001-02 | 2 | 318 | 52 | 496 |
| 2000-01 | 7 | 194 | 50 | 558 |
| 1999-2000 | [1]n/a | 588 | [1]n/a | 596 |

[1] Information for this year is not available.

## Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what recent estimate he has made of the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313797]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department owns five occupied residential properties in Windsor. Three of the properties were last valued at £35,000 each. Two of the properties are recorded in the departmental accounts with a token value of 1p.

## Departmental Performance Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 375-76W, on departmental pay, how many and what proportion of staff of his Department received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; what proportion of staff received no bonus; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313128]

**Mr. Simon:** The number and proportion of employees receiving both a year end and in year non-consolidated performance payment is set out in the following table, along with the largest combined payment and the proportion of employees not receiving a payment.

| | *Number/ proportion/ payment* |
|---|---|
| Number of employees receiving both in year and year non-consolidated payments in 2008-09 | 64 |
| This number as a proportion of total headcount (percentage) | 14 |
| The largest combined non-consolidated payment paid to an individual in 2008-09 (£) | 3,500 |
| The proportion of staff not receiving a non-consolidated performance payment in 2008-09 (percentage) | 30 |

Decisions on who receives non-consolidated performance payments are made through a series of committees chaired by the relevant head of directorate, or a director general. Decisions are based on written recommendations made by the employee's line manager as part of the annual performance assessment.

## Museums and Galleries: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 536W, how much of the funding for the *(a)* British Film Institute National Film Centre, *(b)* British Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre, *(c)* British Library Newspaper Archive and *(d)* new Stonehenge Visitor Centre will be allocated in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [314201]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: Based on the projects' most recent spending profiles, the Department is currently expecting to fund the following amounts in each year:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| *(a)* British Film Institute National Film Centre | 500,000 | 1,600,000 |
| *(b)* British Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre | 3,500,000 | 3,000,000 |
| *(c)* British Library Newspaper Archive | 4,500,000 | 9,300,000 |
| *(d)* Stonehenge Visitor's Centre | 1,465,000 | 7,167,000 |

## National Lottery: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many organisations in the London borough of Bexley received grants from each different funding programme of the Big Lottery Fund in each of the last five years. [314679]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested is not held by the Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of the Big Lottery Fund.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund to write direct to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Parliamentary Questions

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 10 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 51W, on sports: finance, and pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 540W, on sports: National Lottery, for what reason the information requested in the question tabled on 19 January 2010 is not held by his Department. [314488]

**Mr. Simon:** The detailed information requested is not held by this Department, but by the Big Lottery Fund.

Where Members request information that is held by the Department's sponsored bodies it is often not possible to respond to the timescales set out by parliamentary protocol. In order to respond quickly to Members, and ensure consistency, we ask the chief executives of the bodies in question to reply direct to the Member who tabled the question.

The Department then arranges for copies of the answer to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Airports: Planning Permission

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what public inquiries have been instigated as a result of an Article 14 direction on a planning submission for aviation projects in each of the last five years; [314720]

(2) how many representations he has received requesting the planning application to extend London Southend Airport to be called in under an Article 14 direction; [314718]

(3) how many times he has issued an Article 14 direction *(a)* in total and *(b)* for planning applications for airports; and how many such applications in each case have been called in in each of the last five years. [314719]

**John Healey:** The purpose of issuing an Article 14 Direction is to enable the Secretary of State to consider whether to call-in a particular planning application for his own determination. There is therefore no public inquiry procedure associated with it as such an inquiry would only follow if the Secretary of State subsequently decided to call-in the application.

The Secretary of State received 77 requests for the planning application in respect of Southend Airport to be called-in for his determination.

A total of 878 Article 14 Directions have been issued over the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 January 2010, of which three related to planning applications for airports. Of these, one airport-related application was subsequently called in. The following table gives the breakdown requested:

| *Calendar year* | *All cases where Article 14 issued* | *Cases subsequently called in* | *Airport related cases Article 14 issued* | *Airport related cases subsequently called in* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 221 | 49 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 145 | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 366 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| 2008 | 77 | 19 | 1 | 1 |
| 2009—31 January 2010 | 69 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 878 | 128 | 4 | 1 |

### Community Development: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken in respect of community development in Coventry in the last 12 months. [313922]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has worked with Coventry city council to support activities around building stronger and more cohesive communities within Coventry under the following programmes:

Connecting Communities which aims to reinvigorate and connect with those communities that are feeling the pressure from recession most acutely.

Advancing Assets for Communities which supports and strengthens public-third sector partnerships concerned with progressing the transfer of assets from local authority ownership and control to communities.

New Deal for Communities which aims to: reduce worklessness; reduce crime; improve health; improve skills; improve housing and the physical environment; and strengthen communities. Coventry New Deal for Communities aims to deliver sustainable resident-led regeneration in the wards of Wood End, Henley and Manor Farm.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government has spent on Government services delivered locally in Coventry in the last 12 months. [313923]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department does not hold data on how much has been spent in the last 12 months on Government services in Coventry.

### Council Tax

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets his Department has set for local authorities on the *(a)* administration and *(b)* collection of council tax. [314324]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* No targets are set for *(a)* the administration and *(b)* the collection of council tax. These are matters for individual local authorities. Between 1997-98 and 2008-09, the average collection rate in England has increased from 95.5 per cent. to 97.0 per cent.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314592]

**Barbara Follett:** None.

## Fire Services

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters have been trained in decontamination techniques to help the general public since 2002; how many protective suits are available in each fire authority area; what expenditure has been incurred on such *(a)* training and *(b)* suits in each year since 2002; and how much is planned for 2009-10. [314010]

**Mr. Malik:** A census conducted by the National Audit Office in 2008 estimated that 7,653 firefighters were trained in mass decontamination. The Department has also provided training materials to every FRS to ensure that all firefighters, some 50,000, have received awareness training regarding CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) incidents.

CLG's New Dimension project has also supplied two types of protective suits: Gas Tight Suits (GTS) and Powered Respirator Protective Suits (PRPS), the number and location of which are indicated in the following table:

| | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| *Fire and rescue service* | *GTS* | *PRPS*[1] |
| Avon Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service | 72 | 36 |
| Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service | 72 | 36 |
| County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service | 72 | 36 |
| Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service | 108 | 54 |
| Dorset Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Essex County Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service | 76 | 40 |
| Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service | 72 | 36 |
| Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Humberside Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 9 |
| Isles of Scilly Fire and Rescue Service | 20 | — |
| Kent Fire and Rescue Service | 76 | 40 |
| Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service | 72 | 36 |
| Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| London Fire and Planning Authority | 368 | 188 |
| Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue | 40 | 22 |
| Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service | 76 | 40 |
| Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Surrey Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service | 112 | 58 |
| West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service | 40 | 22 |
| Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service | 36 | 18 |
| Total | 2,464 | 1,247 |

[1] This figure includes 195 PRPS for training purposes.

*Note:*

Numbers of spare GTS and PRPS located centrally are not included in this table.

Funding given to FRSs for mass decontamination training is outlined in the second following table:

*Funding provided to FRSs for Mass Decontamination Training*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | — |
| 2003-04 | — |
| 2004-05 | 2,639,400 |
| 2005-06 | 2,310,000 |
| 2006-07 | 2,528,015 |
| 2007-08 | 2,320,000 |
| 2008-09 | 2,366,400 |
| 2009-10 | 2,412,860 |
| Total | 14,576,675 |

The Department is unable to provide the overall cost specifically associated with the procurement of the GTS and PRPS but on average the cost of a GTS was around £560 per suit at the time of purchase in 2003-04 and the cost of PRPS, ordered from 2005-06 onwards, was approximately £880 per suit. Additionally, expenditure associated with the maintenance of the protective suits can not be separated out from other associated maintenance costs.

## Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision regarding the allocation of funding to fire and rescue authorities with regard to their statutory duties in respect of flooding. [313812]

**Mr. Malik:** Fire and rescue authorities do not have a statutory duty to respond to every type of emergency. Rather, they use their general power to respond to these emergencies, including flooding, under section 11 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. They use their local discretion in equipping themselves with the appropriate capabilities to meet the risks, such as flooding, identified through their local risk assessment processes, using the flexible funding arrangements of the Revenue Support Grant and their other resources.

At the national level, this Department has provided the fire and rescue service with 46 high volume pumps, used to great effect during flooding, and funded associated training and maintenance.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has made up to £2 million available to carry out the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project, which aims to enhance the current flood rescue capability. A strategy for how this money will be best used is being developed, and organisations, including the fire and rescue service, could potentially receive some future funding.

### Flood Control: Finance

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have made submissions to his Department for funding under the Bellwin Scheme as a result of the recent severe weather conditions; and what estimates have been provided of the amount each is likely to claim under the scheme. [314686]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Two local authorities, City of York council and Herefordshire council, have registered an intention to claim Bellwin assistance as a result of the recent bad weather and North Yorkshire county council has expressed an interest in possibly making an application. No estimates have yet been provided of the amount each is likely to claim under the scheme.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many petrol filling stations which are *(a)* owned by (i) oil companies and (ii) major supermarket chains and *(b)* independent provided evidence of rental value for the 2010 revaluation of non-domestic rates. [314069]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* A statistical breakdown on the ownership of petrol filling stations and category of person who provided evidence of rental value is not held centrally and cannot be obtained other than at disproportionate cost.

### Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the average rateable value of *(a)* rugby league grounds, *(b)* lifeboat stations, *(c)* aquaria, *(d)* arenas and *(e)* conference and exhibition centres on the 2010 Rating List changed between 29 May 2009 and 18 December 2009. [313638]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 27 January 2010]:* The Valuation Office Agency continues to maintain and update the live 2005 rating lists and the draft 2010 rating lists to ensure that all rateable values remain accurate. This may include some reclassification of hereditaments between property classes. Rateable values may change where there are material changes to the property or the locality, and there will also be new additions and deletions from rating lists. Rateable values may also change where the Valuation Office Agency receives new information or continues to hold discussions with ratepayers or their representatives. These discussions and amendments are done in an entirely open and transparent manner.

### Planning Permission

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average period elapsed between each change to *(a)* planning policy guidance and *(b)* planning policy statements proposed to his Department in the last three years and the entry into force of the change. [314193]

**Mr. Ian Austin** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* Communities and Local Government receives very large numbers of proposals for changes to planning policy. These suggestions may be a response to a consultation, or simply volunteered ad hoc. The period between the arrival of a proposal and any appearance it may make in a policy statement is not susceptible to analysis.

### Regional Planning and Development: North East

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government has contributed through Bridging Newcastle Gateshead to costs for *(a)* the strategic housing staff capacity of the City of Newcastle and *(b)* (i) the EDAW consultancy and (ii) other consultancy costs incurred in (A) the preparation of the North Central Plan and (B) relation to the Benwell Scotswood Plan. [314013]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Over the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 BNG has contributed £1,630,000 to the costs of strategic housing staff capacity of the city of Newcastle for the management and delivery of neighbourhood improvement projects.

EDAW have received £360,262 for the area action plan in Scotswood.

Lambert Smith Hampton received £200,000 for the preparation of the north central plan.

The Benwell/Scotswood area action plan is the area action plan in Scotswood referred to above and there are no other relevant consultancy costs.

### Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements for aggregate extraction the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy places upon councils in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Staffordshire. [313441]

**Mr. Malik:** The annual apportionment for sand and gravel for the period 2001-2016 as set out in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy is 10.125 million tonnes, with Staffordshire contributing 6.602 million tonnes. The corresponding figures for crushed rock are 5.812 million tonnes and 1.395 million tonnes.

The West Midlands Regional Assembly are currently considering the sub-regional apportionment for the period 2005 to 2020.

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses local authorities in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the West Midlands are required to provide under the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. [313444]

**Mr. Malik:** The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was last updated in January 2008. For the period 2007 to 2011, 15,280 homes (gross) are required to be built in the region each year, of which 2,500 are to be within the county of Staffordshire.

The West Midlands Regional Assembly consulted on a draft replacement to the RSS in early 2008. The West Midlands RSS Phase 2 Preferred Option proposed 365,600 homes (net) for the region during the period 2006 to 2026 and 54,900 for Staffordshire. The indicative annual average is 18,280 for the region and 2,745 for Staffordshire.

Between April and June 2009 an Examination in Public was held to consider the RSS Phase 2 Preferred Option. The panel reported in September 2009 and the Secretary of State's proposed changes are due to be published for consultation shortly.

### Sleeping Rough

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of street homeless people in England. [314025]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In 1998 there were estimated to be 1,850 rough sleepers in England. Since then, as a result of the measures the Government have introduced, good progress has been made in reducing the total number of rough sleepers to 464 in 2009, based on local authority street counts.

### Supermarkets: Planning Permission

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of supermarkets which have applied for planning permission for the temporary erection of marquee or tent structures on their properties within the last three months. [313054]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department does not hold this type of information.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning enforcement notices have been issued by his Department and local planning authorities to supermarkets in Lancashire and Merseyside in the last 12 months; and how many resulted in enforcement action. [313055]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** No enforcement notices have been issued by this Department. Although local planning authorities provide my Department with statistics about the number of enforcement notices issued, these statistics do not differentiate between different kinds of breaches of development control. Planning statistics are available on the Communities website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/developmentcontrolstatistics/

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides on whether the erection of temporary marquee or tent structures by supermarkets for the storage of goods requires planning permission. [313056]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department has not issued guidance on whether planning permission is required for the erection of temporary marquee or tent structures by supermarkets for the storage of goods.

### Temporary Accommodation: Sleeping Rough

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of local authorities which provided accommodation for rough sleepers in accordance with their obligations under severe weather emergency procedures during the recent cold weather conditions; [313682]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to monitor the implementation by local authorities of their obligations to rough sleepers under the severe weather emergency procedures; and if he will make a statement. [313683]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 288W.

### Tree Preservation Orders

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken by the Planning Inspectorate was for dealing with complaints relating to tree appeals in the latest period for which figures are available. [314687]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The average time taken for the Planning Inspectorate to reply to Tree Preservation Order Appeal complaints was 19 working days for complaints received in 2009. There were 56 complaints relating to Tree Preservation Order Appeals relating to 39 different appeals.

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken by the Planning Inspectorate was for dealing with fast track tree appeals in the latest period for which figures are available. [314688]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The average time taken by the Planning Inspectorate for fast track tree appeals is 18 weeks, from receipt of the appeal to despatch of the decision. This figure is based on decisions issued under the fast track procedure between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009.

### Waste Management: Planning Permission

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to planning authorities on handling planning applications for waste treatment plants. [314367]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** General guidance on handling all planning applications, including those for waste treatment plants, is set out in our 2004 statement "General principles for the planning system".

As part of the Government response to the Killian Pretty Review, we are currently consulting on a draft new Planning Policy Statement to provide a clear national policy framework for development management. This includes a draft policy annex on determination, and will replace the 2004 guidance.

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer from the Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 559-60W, on wind power: noise, when he expects to announce permitted development rights and regulations in respect of small-scale wind generators. [314685]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government are working to the timetables set out in the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009 for the introduction of permitted development rights for wind turbines. This Act came into force on 12 January 2010. It requires that, in England, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 be amended to provide for the grant of permitted development rights for domestic wind turbines within six months of the Act's coming into force. It also requires the Secretary of State to consider amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to facilitate the installation of microgeneration equipment on non-domestic land in England, with this consideration beginning within six months of the Act's coming into force.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Children: Protection

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to develop and implement a child protection strategy as part of its policies. [313746]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Children and their rights are an integral part of our development strategies. The recent White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty: Building Our Common Future" includes commitments to launching a new Education for Development Strategy, which is forthcoming in early 2010. Universal primary education is a key strategy for addressing child protection issues.

Through the AIDS strategy, "Achieving Universal Access", published in 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) restates its commitment to meeting the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. This includes the expansion of social protection programmes that provide effective and predictable support for the most vulnerable households, including those with children affected by AIDS, to ensure they have long term access to essential basic services and protection from abuse.

DFID does not have plans to develop and implement a specific child protection strategy. DFID has an institutional strategy with UNICEF. This provides annual core funding to UNICEF of £21 million to support their mission to improve the lives of children, their families and communities, including programmes specifically focused on protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse.

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the contribution of the policies in his Department's White Paper to the realisation of children's rights. [313777]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) 2009 White Paper promotes the realisation of children's rights through a range of policies. These include:

Launch of a nutrition strategy to integrate nutrition and food security, especially for women and young children.

Launch of a new UK global education strategy, including a commitment to support 8 million children in school in Africa by 2010.

Commitment to support 50 million poor people (including children) through social assistance and related measures.

Disease prevention policies, including supporting the Global Alliance for Vaccines (GAVI) to secure a predictable funding base, supporting an Advanced Market Commitment for pneumococcal vaccines, and a commitment to deliver 10 million bed nets each year from 2010 to 2013.

DFID assesses policies on a thematic basis. The timetable for forthcoming policy evaluations can be found in the publication "Evaluation Department, Forward Work Programme 2009/10 and list of Evaluation topics proposed for 2010/12", which is available at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* projects and *(b)* programmes which contribute to enabling child rights his Department has funded in the last three years. [313790]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and works towards fulfilling children's rights through various means. Many DFID projects and programmes contribute to meeting the needs and rights of both children and adults and we do not track the number that contributes to enabling child rights as a separate category. Examples of DFID support that is enabling child rights include:

Committing £8.5 billion for education from 2007-15.

Working with multilateral agencies such as UNICEF. We have committed £55 million to UNICEF over five years to strengthen government capacity to realise child rights in India, including working with the government for child-friendly social policy.

Working with and supporting civil society organisations such Plan UK (£7.1 million from 2009-11), Save the Children (£23.4 million from 2009-11) and Anti-Slavery International (£1.4 million from 2008-13).

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313989]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) expenditure on consultancy (as defined by central Government) is available from 2007-08 onwards. Consultancy expenditure prior to 2007-08 cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. The annual expenditure totals are provided in the following table:

| | *Total expenditure (£)* |
|---|---:|
| 2007-08 | 21,200,000 |
| 2008-09 | 20,700,000 |

Reimbursable expenses paid to consultants are not recorded centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of his Department in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313828]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) operates a continual appraisal process that requires a formal end of year performance review to be completed for all staff. For those who are considered to be performing least effectively[1], a range of support measures are set in place to help them improve their performance. Should these measures prove unsuccessful, then disciplinary action and ultimately dismissal, may occur.

Figures set out in the following table, for the last four years for which comparable data are available, show the numbers of staff who were performing least effectively and the numbers of those staff who have since left DFID.

| | | *Staff performing least effectively* | | *Staff performing least effectively who have since left DFID* | |
|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| | *Number of staff*[1] | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2008-09 | 2,917 | 89 | 3.0 | 16 | 0.5 |
| 2007-08 | 2,779 | 60 | 2.1 | 28 | 1.0 |
| 2006-07 | 2,630 | 60 | 2.2 | 35 | 1.3 |
| 2005-06 | 2,495 | 67 | 2.5 | 39 | 1.6 |

[1] The total staff figures include HCS staff and those locally engaged by DFID overseas.

The data are not held in a format that allows a direct comparison to be made between those leaving as a direct result of their performance rating and those who may have left for other reasons.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of his Department managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313852]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not exited any staff in transition over the past five years.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what publications his Department has produced for hon. Members to send to their constituents in each of the last three years; at what cost; and for what purpose. [314175]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has published a wide variety of publications in the last three years to promote the work of the Department and raise awareness of international development, as well as to meet our statutory reporting requirements. None of these publications have been expressly produced for hon. Members to send to their constituents.

### Haiti: Earthquakes

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Haiti; and if he will make a statement. [314424]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** This is a human tragedy of enormous proportions. For the survivors, conditions have been desperate and remain so for many. However co-ordination of the relief effort is improving and responding well to the humanitarian needs of the population.

Our most recent assessment of the humanitarian situation, shared by the UN, is that priority areas for assistance are now shelter, sanitation and food. Two emergency response field hospitals departed from Haiti on 27 January as priority health care needs have now shifted to post-operative and primary health.

An update on the United Kingdom's own relief effort was provided in the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State (Mr. Alexander) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 42WS.

### Human Rights: Children

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will incorporate child rights situational analysis into his Department's *(a)* country governance analysis and *(b)* country assistance plans. [314318]

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[1] Performing least effectively is defined as follows: For members of the senior civil service (SCS), those receiving the lowest performance rating within a relative appraisal system (specified by the Cabinet Office). For staff in grades below the SCS, those assessed as "most in need of development" using DFID's own performance criteria.

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development's (DFID) Country Planning process requires a mandatory Country Governance Analysis (CGA). CGAs provide the UK with an overview analysis of the political, conflict, economic and social context of our partner countries. CGAs are drawn up using a variety of analytical tools, including social exclusion analysis, which incorporates an examination of the status of child rights. The situation of child rights in our partner countries is also considered in the design stages of DFID sectoral programmes, in particular for education and health support.

## TRANSPORT

### A14

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of constructing a new dual carriageway between Ellington and Fen Drayton as part of the A14 improvement work. [311183]

**Chris Mole:** The A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme is a very large road project. In managing the costs of the project the Highways Agency follows good practice—for example by making use of range estimates and allowing for risks in the delivery of the programme, and by ensuring individual elements of the project are co-ordinated most effectively as part of the whole scheme.

This means that it is not possible to be precise about the cost of individual elements of the scheme viewed in isolation. But we estimate that the cost of constructing a new dual carriageway between Ellington and Fen Ditton within the current range forecast for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement project is approximately £342 million to £470 million, if land costs and risk allowances across the project are calculated on a pro rata basis.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of widening the A1 to three lanes in each direction between the new Brampton interchange and the existing junction at Brampton Hut as part of the A14 improvement work. [311184]

**Chris Mole:** The A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme is a very large road project. In managing the costs of the project the Highways Agency follows good practice—for example by making use of range estimates and allowing for risks in the delivery of the programme, and by ensuring individual elements of the project are co-ordinated most effectively as part of the whole scheme.

This means that it is not possible to be precise about the cost of individual elements of the scheme viewed in isolation. But we estimate that the cost of widening the A1 to three lanes in each direction between the new Brampton interchange and the existing junction at Brampton Hut within the current range forecast for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement project is approximately £13 million to £17 million, if land costs and risk allowances across the project are calculated on a pro rata basis.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of the demolition of the Huntingdon Railway viaduct as part of the A14 improvement work. [311185]

**Chris Mole:** The A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme is a very large road project. In managing the costs of the project the Highways Agency follows good practice—for example by making use of range estimates and allowing for risks in the delivery of the programme, and by ensuring individual elements of the project are co-ordinated most effectively as part of the whole scheme.

This means that it is not possible to be precise about the cost of individual elements of the scheme viewed in isolation. But we estimate that the cost of demolishing the Huntingdon Railway Viaduct within the current range forecast for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement project is approximately £15.5 million to £21.3 million, if land costs and risk allowances across the project are calculated on a pro rata basis.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of improving local roads in Huntingdon following the demolition of the Huntingdon Railway viaduct as part of the A14 improvement work. [311186]

**Chris Mole:** The A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme is a very large road project. In managing the costs of the project the Highways Agency follows good practice—for example by making use of range estimates and allowing for risks in the delivery of the programme, and by ensuring individual elements of the project are co-ordinated most effectively as part of the whole scheme.

This means that it is not possible to be precise about the cost of individual elements of the scheme viewed in isolation. But we estimate that the cost of alterations to the local road network in Huntingdon within the current range forecast for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement project is approximately £13 million to £17 million, if land costs and risk allowances across the project are calculated on a pro rata basis.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of widening the Huntingdon to Brampton Road following the demolition of the Huntingdon Railway viaduct as part of the A14 improvement work. [311187]

**Chris Mole:** The works proposed within Huntingdon as part of the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement do not require the widening of Brampton Road.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of noise mitigation measures to be implemented along the A1 at Brampton as part of the A14 improvement work. [311188]

**Chris Mole:** The A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme is a very large road project. In managing the costs of the project the Highways Agency follows good practice—for example by making use of range estimates and allowing for risks in the delivery of the programme, and by ensuring individual elements of the project are co-ordinated most effectively as part of the whole scheme.

This means that it is not possible to be precise about the cost of individual elements of the scheme viewed in isolation. But we estimate that the cost of noise mitigation measures proposed along the A1 at Brampton within the current range forecast for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement project is approximately £1.5 million to £2 million. This is included in the estimate for the widening of this section to three lanes.

## Aviation: Fuels

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what restrictions apply to the jettisoning of aviation fuel over *(a)* British and *(b)* international waters. [313000]

**Paul Clark:** Article 129 of the Air Navigation Order 2009 prohibits aircraft flying over the United Kingdom from the dropping of articles to the surface unless permission has been given by the Civil Aviation Authority. However, the jettisoning of fuel in the case of an emergency is exempted from this requirement. The decision to jettison rests solely with the pilot but he may request guidance from air traffic control regarding where best to jettison the fuel. The pilot will be advised to fuel jettison at above 10,000 feet above ground level and away from cities and towns, preferably over water, where this is possible.

There are no specific requirements covering the jettisoning of fuel over international waters.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much fuel was jettisoned by aircraft while in the air on *(a)* outward journeys from and *(b)* inward journeys to Great Britain, in the last year for which figures are available. [313005]

**Paul Clark:** Fuel jettisoning will only take place in an emergency when an aircraft needs to lose weight in order for it to reach its maximum landing weight. In the 12 months from 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009 the Civil Aviation Authority received 18 reports of aircraft jettisoning fuel. 17 of the aircraft concerned were outbound from the UK when they had to make emergency landings. The other aircraft was inbound. The CAA does not record the amount of fuel jettisoned.

## Bus Services: Concessions

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has contributed towards concessionary fares on bus services in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* Southampton City and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [313787]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has provided concessionary travel special grant funding of:

*(a)* £225,335 in 2008-09 and £230,649 in 2009-10 to Test Valley borough council;

*(b)* £1,059.068 in 2008-09 and £1,084,046 in 2009-10 to Southampton city council;

*(c)* A total of £4,943,603 in 2008-09 and £5,060,197 in 2009-10 to the Travel Concession Authorities in the ceremonial county of Hampshire.

The special grant funding is solely to cover the extra costs of providing England-wide travel since April 2008. Communities and Local Government (CLG) continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through Formula Grant. Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of bus journeys in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* Southampton City and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire were made on concessionary fares in each of the last five years. [313788]

**Mr. Khan:** Concessionary trip statistics have been collected from bus operators only since 2007-08. Revised figures for 2007-08 are planned for publication, alongside 2008-09 data, not later than June 2010. This date is later than would normally have been the case as a result of the development of new estimation methodologies that are being applied across a broad range of bus statistics.

However, it is not always possible to publish bus patronage statistics for individual Travel Concessionary Authority areas due to commercial confidentiality obligations to local bus operators.

## Diesel Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce diesel carbon particulates emitted from *(a)* Government and *(b)* private sector vehicles. [312851]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government have supported adoption of stringent European emissions standards for new vehicles. The forthcoming Euro 5 emissions standards for cars and vans, and Euro VI emissions standards for lorry and bus engines, will ensure that diesel particle emissions are reduced by more than 99 per cent. relative to current diesel vehicles.

In addition the Treasury are encouraging the early uptake of Euro 5 vans by means of a vehicle excise duty incentive. They also plan to introduce incentives to encourage the early uptake of Euro VI lorries and buses in due course.

EU Directive 2009/33/EC requires local authorities, operators of public transport services and public bodies to take account of the energy consumption and environmental impacts of vehicles, including particle emissions, in their procurement processes. The Department is currently consulting on implementation of this directive, which is due to come into force in December 2010, and on draft guidance to assist public bodies in complying.

## East Coast Railway Line

**John Mann:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what changes he expects to be made to East Coast Main Line passenger rail services between Retford and London in May 2010 in respect of *(a)* daytime service frequency, *(b)* the number of services from Retford arriving in London before 10 am, *(c)* the latest direct train to leave London for Retford on (i) weekdays and (ii) Saturdays, *(d)* services at peak commuter hours, *(e)* services on Saturday evenings and *(f)* the overall number of services operated. [313552]

**Chris Mole:** For May 2010, there is no material change to the weekday timetable for trains serving Retford. There may be changes to weekend timings because there are significant engineering works planned for the southern part of the route.

There is a major timetable change planned for May 2011 on the East Coast Main Line. The timetable is currently subject to consultation and further development, by the current operator, East Coast.

The number of services to and from London each day will remain broadly similar to today, although it is planned to have later services from London on Saturdays.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles: Local Authorities

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which local authorities in England and Wales use immobilisation as part of their parking enforcement activities; under what legislation this is regulated; and if he will make a statement. [313148]

**Mr. Khan:** All local authorities that have applied for and been given the power to enforce parking under the Traffic Management Act 2004 have the power to immobilise vehicles. No record is kept centrally of which local authorities use that power.

The provisions and power to immobilise illegally parked vehicles are set out in section 79 of the Traffic Management Act and two sets of regulations made under the Act: The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 no 3483) and The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) Representations and Appeals Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 no 3482). Under the General Regulations, there is a general power to immobilise vehicles which have been served with a penalty charge notice. A penalty charge notice can only be issued in respect of parking contraventions for the purposes of this power.

The Secretary of State's statutory guidance to local authorities on the civil enforcement of parking contraventions is that immobilisation should be used in limited circumstances, such as where the same vehicle repeatedly breaks parking restrictions and it has not been possible to collect payment for penalties.

### Railways: North West

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to reduce railway journey times between London and *(a)* Lancaster, *(b)* Preston and *(c)* Crewe. [314180]

**Chris Mole:** Journey times have already been significantly reduced. The recently modernised and resignalled West Coast Main Line has delivered far more 125 mph operation across the route bringing more capacity and faster journeys for millions of passengers.

Average journey times from Lancaster and Preston to London were reduced by half an hour to 2 hours 24 minutes and 2 hours 8 minutes respectively. The fastest London to Preston train now completes the journey in a very attractive two hours.

The fastest trains from Crewe now reach London Euston in 90 minutes, a journey time reduction of 15 minutes.

### Railways: Standards

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what has been the average length of delay for trains classified as late in each of the last 10 years in respect of *(a)* short distance and *(b)* long distance journeys; and what percentage of delays in each such year have been the responsibility of (i) Network Rail and (ii) a train operating company and (iii) another organisation. [314348]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The Department for Transport does not hold information on average length of delay broken down by short distance and long distance journeys.

The percentage of delays for the last seven years for which data are available is shown in the following table for (i) Network Rail, (ii) Train Operating Companies (TOCs) to themselves and (iii) delays to TOCs caused by other TOCs. The Department does not hold these data prior to the last seven years.

*MAA percentage share of total industry delay minutes incurred by major passenger operators*

| | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *(i) Network Rail delay* | *(ii) TOC on self delay* | *(iii) TOC on TOC by victim delay* |
| 2002-03 | 55 | 34 | 12 |
| 2003-04 | 55 | 33 | 13 |
| 2004-05 | 51 | 36 | 13 |
| 2005-06 | 53 | 34 | 13 |
| 2006-07 | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| 2007-08 | 59 | 30 | 12 |
| 2008-09 | 58 | 30 | 12 |

*Source:*
NPPR at Period 13.

Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. The hon. Gentleman may wish to contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for such information:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG.

### Roads: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps the Government has taken to maintain roads serving Coventry in the last 12 months. [313926]

**Mr. Khan:** Maintenance of local authority roads in Coventry is a matter for Coventry council.

As part of the Local Transport Plan settlement, the Department for Transport provides capital funding for highways maintenance to local highway authorities. In 2008-09, the allocation to Coventry was £1.704 million, and in 2009-10 it is £1.874 million. In addition, the council may use revenue support grant provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government for highways maintenance.

Through the provision of advice, the Department has supported the procurement phase of Coventry's private finance initiative project to renew its street lighting.

The Highways Agency has two trunk roads in the area, parts of which pass through or are very close to the city of Coventry: the A45 between the A46 and M45 and the A46 between the Kenilworth bypass and M6. The following major maintenance schemes have been carried out over the last 12 months:

1. A45/A46 interchange at Stivichall (Festival Island)—carriageway resurfacing.

2. A45/A46 interchange at Stivichall (Festival Island) bridge expansion joint installation.

3. A45 carriageway renewal scheme between Memorial Island (A45/B4455 roundabout) and Ryton on Dunsmore—currently under way.

These schemes are in addition to the ongoing normal routine maintenance programme, which includes such duties as grass cutting, drain and debris clearance and minor carriageway repair; and the winter maintenance programme including gritting and snow clearance, as required.

### Roads: Greater Manchester

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the Minister of State's announcement of 14 July 2009 of a £45 million cash injection for Greater Manchester's road network, from which budget within his Department this sum will be spent. [313691]

**Mr. Khan:** The Greater Manchester Highway Retaining Walls major maintenance scheme was recommended for funding by the North West Region from their Regional Funding Allocation. The Department for Transport has provided funding provision for the scheme from its local authority major schemes budget.

The Department will provide £40.5 million and the promoting local authorities will provide £4.5 million.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to improve major arterial roads; and if he will make a statement. [314480]

**Chris Mole:** In January 2009 the Secretary of State announced a £6 billion programme of investment in the most important sections of the Strategic Road Network in England. In total, this programme consists of 29 schemes that will deliver over 520 additional lane miles on the main network. Copies of the announcement are available in the Library, and can be found online at the Department's website.

In addition to this, the Highways Agency delivers a range of schemes on regionally significant strategic roads. The most recent of these is the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool in the east midlands. Overall, the Highways Agency will spend £300 million on regional schemes this year.

Beyond the information provided on the Highways Agency national and regional schemes, most local roads that serve an arterial function are managed by local highway authorities. Improvements to these routes can be either funded through the Integrated Transport Block Settlement which the Department allocates to local authorities for schemes costing under £5 million or through the respective Regional Funding Allocation.

Schemes in Scotland and Wales are handled by the Devolved Administrations.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration his Department has given to the effects on the environment of the use of *(a)* grit and *(b)* salt to remedy the effects of cold weather conditions on the roads. [312443]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport endorses 'Well-maintained Highways', the code of practice for highway maintenance management published by the UK Roads Liaison Group.

The section on winter service in this code includes guidance on the storage and spreading of salt and grit used in severe weather, to ensure that damage to the environment is kept to a minimum.

The use of salt to treat the road network to help prevent the formation of ice and build up of snow is acknowledged as the only viable wide scale treatment option. Notwithstanding this, the Highways Agency has recognised the potential impact of salt on the environment and this was part of its consideration in adopting the "pre-wet" salt application technique, within its new winter vehicle fleet. Due to its greater application accuracy, up to 25 per cent. less salt can be used to treat the network helping to minimise the environmental impact of winter maintenance activities.

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations his Department has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* Royal Mail on the condition of road surfaces following the severe weather conditions in January 2010. [313386]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport and Government regional offices have received six formal representations from local authorities about the condition of road surfaces following the severe weather conditions so far this winter. They are from Sheffield city council, North Yorkshire county council, North Tyneside Council, Southend-on-Sea borough council, Herefordshire council and Darlington borough council.

The Department has also received a representation from the Local Government Association.

Another authority, Peterborough city council, has contacted the consultants who have been engaged by the Department to advise authorities on preparation of claims under its emergency capital highway maintenance funding scheme.

No representations have been received from Royal Mail.

### Safety Belts: Young People

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 326W, on driving: young people, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research to which the answer referred; and if he will make a statement. [314029]

**Paul Clark:** The research referred to is Road Safety Research Report 98 "Strapping Yarns: Why People Do And Do Not Wear Seat Belts" published in November 2008. The report is available on the Department for Transport's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/reportno98.pdf

a copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Support to Informal Justice System project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in 2009-10; and how much it has received from his Department in that year to date. [310164]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Justice and security are key pre-requisites for stabilising local communities in Helmand and laying the ground for strong governance. The security environment is not permissive for the formal justice sector to operate in a meaningful way outside of the provincial capital. It has been estimated that approximately 95 per cent. of all disputes in Helmand are resolved without formal justice institutions: by community leaders, local government, elders or religious leaders. My Department thus supports the Informal Justice Sector in order to increase access to a basic justice service for the Afghan population living in Helmand's districts, and to provide an alternative to the Taliban 'service' in the area of justice and dispute resolution.

The project received £222,438 in the financial year 2008-09 and was allocated £89,707 for 2009-10. Funding in the second year was reduced for a number of reasons:

(a) Increasing Afghanisation of the project, particularly in the districts.

(b) Equipment purchased in FY 2008-09 did not need to be replaced in FY 2009-10.

(c) Educational courses run in 2008-09 were not repeated in 2009-10.

(d) An overall underspend in FY 2008-09.

There is evidence that local communities are using these services to resolve disputes and that these mechanisms can successfully work with the formal justice system. Learning from these projects has been part of UK support to the Afghan Government in developing a national policy on traditional justice.

### British Overseas Territories

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits he has made to UK overseas territories in the last 12 months; and what the purpose was of each such visit. [314496]

**Chris Bryant:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 100W.

### Colombia: EU External Trade

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Colombian counterpart and *(b)* his EU counterparts on a free trade agreement with Colombia. [314730]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the EU-Colombia Multi Party Agreement with his EU counterparts. He raised the issue in a meeting with the Colombian Foreign Minister in December 2009, reiterating the importance to the UK of linking a free trade agreement to improvements in the human rights situation.

I have held several informal discussions on this issue with my EU counterparts recently. In January this year I also raised it with Adriana Mejia, the Colombian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs pointing out the UK requirement for a robust human rights clause that would enable suspension of the agreement if the terms of the clause are breached. This clause will also act as the catalyst for frank dialogue with Colombia on human rights issues going forward. I also talked about it in the margins of the London Conference on Afghanistan with the Colombian Foreign Minister, Jaime Bermudez, with whom I discussed the situation facing Liliana Obando.

### Colombia: Human Rights

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Colombian counterpart on human rights in Colombia. [314729]

**Chris Bryant:** Earlier this month, I met Adriana Mejia, the Colombian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for the Human Rights portfolio. I took the opportunity to welcome Colombia's comprehensive response to their voluntary Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights from December 2008. However, I also raised the UK's continued concerns on a number of areas, including the existence and implementation of the law of "rebellion" which leads to allegations of political prisoners. I also expressed regret at the recent release of those charged with the Soacha extrajudicial killings. Impunity is a serious problem in Colombia and I welcomed the statements from President Uribe expressing concern at the judicial system following the release. We also discussed the negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia.

I also talked about the human rights situation in Colombia in the margins of the London Conference on Afghanistan with the Colombian Foreign Minister, Jaime Bermudez, with whom I discussed the situation facing Liliana Obando.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313837]

**Chris Bryant:** All staff are appraised annually. Where performance is rated unsatisfactory at any point in the appraisal period, performance improvement procedures are followed. In almost all cases, implementation of these procedures results in full improvement of performance. From 2005 to 27 January 2010, 89 staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services have been through performance improvement procedures. As this lead to fewer than five dismissals, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, details are not provided to avoid revealing the identity of individuals and on grounds of confidentiality.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313855]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not available to us. We do not keep records of where people are employed once they leave the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

## EC External Relations

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which EU Common Positions the Government subscribes; on what date the Government subscribed to each; and on what date each such position is due to expire. [314263]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The following table sets out the Common Positions (CPs) to which the Government have subscribed in the context of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.

| *Common Position (CP)* | *Date agreed* | *Date of expiry* |
|---|---|---|
| Common Position 2006/276/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against certain officials of Belarus and repealing CP 2004/848/CFSP | 10 April 2006 | 31 October 2010 |
| Common Position 2006/318/CFSP renewing restrictive measures against Burma | 27 April 2006 | 30 April 2010 |
| Common Position on Cuba | 15 June 2009 | 15 June 2010 |
| Common Position 2006/795/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 20 November 2006 | None |
| Common Position amending CP 2008/369/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of Congo | 14 May 2008 | 30 April 2010 |
| Common Position 2004/694/CFSP renewing measures in support of the effective implementation of the mandate of ICTY | 11 October 2004 | 10 October 2010 |
| Common Position 2007/140/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran | 27 February 2007 | None |
| Common Position 2008/873/CFSP renewing the restrictive measures against Ivory Coast | 18 November 2008 | None |
| Common Position 2008/109/CFSP Concerning restrictive measures imposed against Liberia | 12 February 2008 | None |
| Common Position 2004/133/CFSP renewing restrictive measures against extremists in FYROM | 10 February 2004 | None |
| Common Position renewing restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova | 25 February 2008 | 27 February 2010 |
| Common Position defined by the Council on the basis of Article 12 of the Treaty on European Union concerning Sierra Leone | 29 June 1998 | None |
| Common Position concerning restrictive measures against Somalia and repealing CP 2002/960/CFSP | 16 February 2009 | 27 February 2010 |
| Common Position 2005/411/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Sudan and repealing CP 2004/31/CFSP | 30 May 2005 | None |
| Common Position 205/888/CFSP concerning specific restrictive measures against certain persons suspected of involvement in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri | 12 December 2005 | None |
| Common Position concerning restrictive measures against Osama bin Laden, members of the Al-Qaeda organisation and the Taliban and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them and repealing CPs 96/746/CFSP, 1999/727/CFSP, 2001/154/CFSP and 2001/771/CFSP | 27 May 2002 | None |
| Common Position 2004/161/CFSP renewing restrictive measures against Zimbabwe | 19 February 2004 | 20 February 2010 |

## Haiti: Earthquakes

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Britons killed or injured in the Haiti earthquake. [314693]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We can confirm that two British nationals were killed in the Haiti earthquake.

## Nigeria: Violence

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of violence in the city of Jos and Plateau state, Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [314422]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are deeply saddened by the recent loss of life caused by violence between ethnic groups in the city of Jos and Plateau State, as expressed in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's joint statement with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and EU High Representative Baroness Ashton on 28 January 2010.

We welcome Vice President Jonathan's statement during his visit to Jos on 25 January 2010 that those responsible for crimes will be prosecuted, and that Nigeria will seek long-term solutions to inter-communal conflict in the country.

### Peru: EU External Trade

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conditions will be placed on Peru to ensure its compliance with human rights requirements, with particular reference to the human rights of indigenous people, in negotiations on an EU-Peru free trade agreement; and what sanctions will be imposed if Peru does not meet those conditions. [314722]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government regard trade agreements as important for economic growth and prosperity in developed and developing countries, helping to reduce the poverty that is often the driver of conflict, displacement and human rights abuse. We continue to raise matters of the human rights of indigenous people and will insist on tough and enforceable human rights conditions as part of any EU Free Trade Agreement with the Andean region.

### Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [314425]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Sri Lankan Election Commissioner announced on 27 January 2010 that President Rajapakse had won the presidential election with a clear majority. We are encouraging the president to use his new mandate to work towards a fully inclusive political solution which addresses the underlying causes of the conflict. It remains our view that this is the only way to achieve lasting peace in Sri Lanka. Genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities will depend in a large part on the government promoting and protecting the rights of all Sri Lankans.

We welcome the fact that election day was largely peaceful. However we will also be pressing the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that investigations are carried out into the reported violations of election law during the election campaign, including the numerous incidents of violence, and to take measures to prevent electoral violations in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

EU High Representative Baroness Ashton released the following statement on the election:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/106&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

### Tibet: Politics and Government

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on the political situation in Tibet. [314418]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We discuss Tibet regularly with the Chinese authorities at all levels. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has raised Tibet with President Hu and Premier Wen. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also discussed Tibet with State Councillor Dai Bingguo and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

Our interest is in sustainable development and long-term stability for Tibet, which can be achieved only through respect for the rights of Tibetan people and genuine autonomy for Tibet. Substantive dialogue between Chinese authorities and representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the best way to achieve this. We welcome the announcement of the resumption of dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the representatives of the Dalai Lama and urge both sides to approach the dialogue in good faith.

### Turkey: EU Enlargement

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on negotiations on the accession of Turkey to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [314495][1]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In December 2009 the EU agreed to open the Environment Chapter of the accession negotiations with Turkey. Turkey has now opened 11 out of 35 accession Chapters.

The European Commission's most recent Progress Report for 2009 on Turkey's EU accession process noted several steps forward, for example in addressing the Kurdish and Armenian questions, a new judicial reform strategy, and improving energy security.

During my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's visit to Istanbul he reiterated the UK's support for Turkey's EU membership and urged Turkey to continue making the necessary reforms and to abide by its commitments under the Ankara Protocol.

At the same time the report noted that renewed efforts on further reforms were needed and challenged Turkey to step up the pace of their reform programme and proactively contribute to a Cyprus settlement.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Commonwealth governments on the restoration of democracy in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [314423]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Zimbabwe with his Commonwealth counterparts at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which took place in Trinidad between 27 and 29 November 2009. Commonwealth Heads of Government welcomed the Global Political Agreement on power-sharing in Zimbabwe, and expressed the hope that this would be implemented faithfully and effectively. They looked forward to the conditions being created for the return of Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth.

We are in regular contact with members of the Southern African Development Community, many of whom are members of the Commonwealth, as part of an ongoing dialogue.

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[1] *[Official Report, 24 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 7MC.]*

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 88W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, whether the three helicopters were delivered to Afghanistan by 31 December 2009. [314322]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: The helicopters arrived in Afghanistan in early January 2010 and declared fully operational on 25 January 2010.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers during the *(a)* initial and *(b)* main gate decision period for the two new carriers. [314305]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Costs incurred for the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers up to the end of the Assessment Phase were £110 million (CDEL, Outturn), with a further £174 million (CDEL, Outturn) incurred up to the end of the Demonstration Phase. Following Main Gate approval in July 2007, the QE Class Manufacture Contract was placed in July 2008, defining the end of the Demonstration Phase.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate his Department's research and development expenditure arising from its procurement of two new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. [314306]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers utilise mostly mature equipment and technology. As a de-risking measure we have spent around £20 million on shore-based test facilities in the areas of mission systems, power and propulsion and highly mechanised weapon handling.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are deployed at each overseas location on operations. [312660]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table shows the number of troops deployed on operations at overseas locations:

| *Location* | *Endorsed number (as at 21 January 10)*[1] |
|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 9,500 |
| Iraq | [2]150 |
| At sea | [3]1,030 |
| Falklands/South Atlantic | 1,500 |
| Qatar | 150 |
| Cyprus | 300 |
| Bahrain | 150 |
| Oman | 350 |
| UAE | 50 |
| Other | [4]<50 |

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[1] Rounded to the nearest 50 personnel.

[2] On 15 June 2009, (*Official Report*, column 21), the Prime Minister set out for Parliament the current number of UK military personnel expected to remain in Iraq to conduct Navy training and maritime support after the withdrawal of the bulk of our forces from southern Iraq and Baghdad. The UK/Iraq agreement was ratified by the Presidency Council on 23 October, following which the UK has reinserted up to 100 personnel into Iraq to deliver its mandate. Some British personnel are also in Iraq under the NATO Long Term Agreement as part of the NATO Training Mission—Iraq.

[3] Numbers at sea in support of Operations Telic and Calash.

[4] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, headquarters liaison officers and capacity building activities.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

### Armed Forces: Discharges

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether members of the armed forces attending a medical discharge board are permitted to attend with a *(a)* nominated colleague, *(b)* friend and *(c)* legal adviser; and if he will make a statement. [305034]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: The single service medical boards encourage service personnel to bring with them someone with whom they feel comfortable and who can give support during the appointment. The person can be a service person from their workplace or unit, or a civilian family member if they prefer. At times social workers, other medical support staff, or (more rarely) legal advisers, have attended. If the patient wishes, this person can be with them during the consultations and administrative interviews.

### Armed Forces: Driving

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military driving licences were converted into civilian driving licences in each year since 2005; [314288]

(2) how many military driving licences were not converted into civilian licences as a result of processing errors in each year since 2005. [314289]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry Of Defence (MOD) does not have a 'military driving licence' but does have the legal authority to conduct the national driving tests on MOD personnel. Successful candidates receive their UK national licence for the categories tested on.

The number of successful driving test passes, in all categories, from 1 April 2005 to 26 January 2010 is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 | 24,498 |
| 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 | 25,352 |
| 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 | 24,646 |
| 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 | 25,191 |
| 1 April 2009 to 26 January 2010 | 19,310 |

Prior to October 2005 all MOD personnel passing a UK national driving test through the military system would have been issued with a Driving Standards Agency pass certificate by the MOD Driving Examiner. The successful candidate was responsible for sending their pass certificate and existing driving licence to the DVLA within the two-year life of the pass certificate in order to have their licence amended. There is no information available as to how many MOD personnel failed to have their licences amended after having successfully passed a driving test.

Since October 2005 the confirmation of a successful driving test for MOD personnel has been transferred electronically to the DVLA via the Military Automatic Driving Licence Issue (MADLI) system. The DVLA then process the licence amendments and an upgraded licence is sent out within four days. There is no evidence of driver licence processing errors since MADLI was introduced.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of running each service medical board of survey was in the latest period for which figures are available. [304871]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The total costs of running each single service medical board are not collated centrally. As well as staff costs of board members, the composition of which will vary according to the specific case, these will include such items as accommodation, utilities, travel and subsistence, reprographics and administration, both personnel and processing. Comprehensive and verifiable figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel are assigned to the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy Medical Board of Survey. [304872]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Naval Service Medical Board of Survey (NSMBOS) is based at the Institute of Naval Medicine, Alverstoke. Staff assigned to the board are as follows:

| *Rank/grade* | *Number* | *Full/part-time* |
|---|---|---|
| Surgeon Captain | 1 | Full-time |
| Surgeon Commander | 1 | Part-time[1] |
| Warrant Officer | 1 | Full-time |
| CPO | 1 | Full-time |
| C2 (civilian) | 1 | Full-time |
| E1 (civilian) | 1 | Full-time |
| E2 (civilian) | 2 | Full-time |
| Leading Medical Assistant | 1 | Full-time |
| Medical Assistant | 1 | Full-time |

[1] Approximately 2.5 days per week.

Army Medical Boards are conducted as required at Army bases and units around the UK and in Germany, and are run by regional occupational health teams. The specific composition and staffing of these varies, although there are common denominators, such as a president who is a consultant occupational physician, usually a colonel or lieutenant colonel, as well as a combination of clinical specialists as appropriate to the case, military and civilian medical officers, plus administrative staff.

The RAF Medical Board is based at RAF Henlow. Staff assigned to the board are as follows:

| *Role* | *Rank/grade* | *Number* | *Full/part-time* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Occupational Health Consultant (RAF) | Group Captain (Officer Commanding) | 1 | Full-time |
| Occupational Health Consultant (RAF) | Wing Commander (Deputy) | 1 | Full-time |
| Occupational Health Consultant (civilian) | n/a | 1 | Part-time[1] |
| General Practitioner (RAF) | Squadron Leader | 1 | Full-time |
| General Practitioner (civilian) | n/a | 1 | Part-time[2] |
| Service Training | Squadron Leader | 1 | Part-time[3] |
| Practice Manager | Flight Sergeant (RAF medic) | 1 | Full-time |
| Support staff | Sergeant (RAF medic) | 1 | Full-time |
| Support staff | Corporal (RAF medic) | 1 | Full-time |
| Support Staff | E1 (civilian) | 2 | Full-time |
| Support Staff | E2 (civilian) | 3 | Full-time |

[1] Three days per week.

[2] Two days per week.

[3] Four days per week.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mean time between medical downgrading and appearance before a medical board of survey was for each of the armed forces in each year since 1997. [304873]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Individuals may normally be downgraded in a temporary reduced medical category for up to 12 months continuously for the same condition (18 months for the RAF); this will usually be done when a recovery of function would be expected within this time period. At any time during this period, and in any case at its expiration if full recovery has not taken place, the individual can be referred to the appropriate single Service Medical Board for award of a permanently reduced Joint Medical Employment Standard (JMES). The timing of referral will in all cases strike an appropriate balance between the needs of the individual service and those of the patient. The mean time between initial temporary downgrading and attendance at a Medical Board for award of a permanently reduced JMES in each year since 1997 is not held centrally, and could be provided at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of each diagnosed condition each service medical board of survey considered in each year since 1997. [304874]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were filed against each service medical board of survey by *(a)* attendees and *(b)* third parties acting on behalf of attendees since 1997. [304876]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Each of the single services has a process for handling complaints against medical board decisions. Redress of complaint and service complaints can be made only by the person involved, not on behalf of others, and so the following figures apply only to complaints by attendees.

Within the Naval Service, the Naval Service Medical Board of Survey (NSMBOS) has no record of any complaint filed against it. Current and historic data are not held centrally about service complaints concluded successfully at unit level and data could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are no records of any service complaints about NSMBOS decisions being referred to higher level naval authorities for consideration.

Within the Army, service complaints are resolved at one of three levels: Level 1—the prescribed officer (usually the Commanding Officer (CO); Level 2—the Superior Officer (SO); and Level 3—The Defence Council. The intent is that complaints are dealt with at the lowest level possible and resolution achieved quickly and, where possible, informally but the making of a service complaint in accordance with legislation is a legal right under section 334 of the Armed Forces Act 2006.

If either the CO or SO are unable to deal effectively with the complaint or lack the authority to grant the desired or any other appropriate redress, they may refer the complaint to the next level. At each of the first two levels, if the complainant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the complaint or the redress to be granted, they may apply to have the complaint referred to the next higher level for consideration. For serving personnel in the Army, the following data reflect those complaints against a decision made by a medical board which reached Level 3 (Defence Council); verified data are not available prior to 2000:

| | *Level 3 complaints* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 3 |
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 | 4 |
| 2008 | 4 |
| 2009 | 1 |

For the RAF, the numbers of personnel that have put a service complaint forward via the redress mechanism, regarding the Permanent Employment Standard awarded by the RAF Medical Board, since 2004 are as follows:

| | *Complaints received* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 3 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 | 3 |
| 2008 | 1 |
| 2009 | [1]7 |

[1] Including clarification of award.

Files are kept for five years and then destroyed. consequently records for the full period requested are not available.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation units are awaiting demolition. [314183]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties are only demolished as a last resort in cases where they are surplus to requirements but cannot be sold or otherwise disposed of.

While the majority of properties are located in the area surrounding a military site, some are located 'within the wire' of the site itself and so cannot be disposed of for security reasons.

This is the case with the 81 SFA properties currently awaiting demolition. They are located at RAF Digby and Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham and are due to be demolished by the end of March 2010.

Around 35,000 Single Living Accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces are now at the highest standard (Grade 1) and our intent is that by 2020 some 70 per cent. of UK personnel will be in Grade 1 SLA and the remainder in Grade 2. Some barrack blocks are routinely refurbished or demolished as part of our £1.4 billion modernisation programme, but the re-use or demolition of accommodation blocks which have been replaced is a matter for local commands and information is not held centrally.

### Armed Forces: Uniforms

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to expedite the issuing of Mk7 helmets to troops serving within theatre. [314598]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** 15,000 Mk7 helmets have been ordered, of which 5,000 were delivered to theatre last year. A further 7,000 will be delivered to theatre early this year.

Helmets are a personnel issue item, so theatre stocks are continually replenished as service personnel return to the UK with their helmet at the end of their tour of duty.

### Army: Recruitment

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department allocated for overseas travel expenses for Army recruitment teams in each of the last five years. [314184]

**Bill Rammell:** Army recruiting teams operate in the United Kingdom and do not incur any costs for overseas travel.

However, the Army's overseas pre-selection teams, which travel to countries that have a high number of people who have applied to join the Army, have incurred the following costs for flights, transport and accommodation charges for staff since 2005-06:

| *Financial year* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 42,507 |
| 2006-07 | 78,639 |
| 2007-08 | 197,589 |
| 2008-09 | 140,566 |

Overseas pre-selection teams tend to be more active during periods when the Army is finding it harder to attract sufficient numbers of recruits. In light of the relatively healthy manning position which exists in the Army at present, there have been no overseas visits by the overseas pre-selection teams in 2009-10.

### Clyde Naval Base

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has for the conventional surface fleet based at Faslane other than the withdrawal of HMS Walney; [314303]

(2) what plans he has for the fleet of Sandown class mine hunters other than the withdrawal of HMS Walney. [314304]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The eight Sandown class mine hunter vessels are the only conventional surface ships based at Faslane. We have no plans to change this arrangement or to make any changes to the Sandown class other than the withdrawal from service of HMS Walney later this year.

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313993]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Summaries for the years 1995-96 to 2007-08 of the MOD's expenditure on External Assistance, of which consultancy is a part, are available in the Library of the House. These summaries also include the spend figures for the Department's agencies, but they exclude expenditure by non-departmental public bodies, which is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on reimbursable expenses paid to consultants is not held centrally and could be only provided at disproportionate cost. The circumstances in which reasonable expenses may be reimbursed are set out in contract terms and conditions and their payment is subject to subsequent scrutiny by a designated official.

### Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* potential annual rental and *(b)* total book value of the (i) empty and (ii) occupied residential properties owned by his Department. [313751]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The majority of the 70,000 service family accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide are leased rather than owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and therefore details of the potential annual rental and book value of these properties is a matter for the owners.

Where the MOD does own the SFA, such as in Scotland and Northern Ireland, it is solely for the purpose of housing entitled Service families. No estimate is made of how much income could be generated by letting out the properties on a commercial basis. SFA occupancy charges for personnel are set annually by the independent armed forces pay review body.

With regard to the value of the premises, details of all MOD holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations, can be found in chapter seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website, last published in 2007:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

The requested information, and details of all property below £1 million in value, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pay

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 796W, on departmental pay, how many senior fixed-term appointees in each organisation were paid bonuses of over £50,000 in 2008-09. [314600]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Two. The individuals are employed by the MOD in two separate organisations. Performance awards are judged against taut objectives, on a sliding scale with no awards until specific levels of performance are achieved. Performance is judged by remuneration committee with independent departmental validation at a senior level. These individuals and their organisations have played a critical role in supporting front line operations and contributed to savings of £57.5 million paid to the Department in 2008-09.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314594]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence has not arranged any citizens' juries or summits since October 2008.

### Ex-servicemen: Homelessness

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of homeless former service personnel in each year since 1992. [314389]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Independent research carried out in London in 2008 by the university of York shows that the proportion of veterans among the homeless population has fallen dramatically over the last 10 years. Veterans now represent some 6 per cent. of the homeless population in London compared with the 22 per cent. found in separate research in 1997. This is a real success story in our strategy to tackle homelessness in London. However, the numbers of ex-service personnel who find themselves homeless are still too high, and we plan to continue to develop our relationships with the charitable sector to ensure we continue to address this very important issue.

The MOD is always interested in identifying ways in which veterans can be assisted. The Government's commitment was set out in the Service Personnel Command Paper, "The Nation's Commitment: Cross Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans", in July 2008.

Changes have been made to the law in England and Wales so that servicemen and women are now able to establish a local connection with the district in which they are or have just been serving for the purposes of applying for social housing and homelessness assistance while plans are in place to implement similar arrangements in Scotland. We are also working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to agree arrangements whereby empty MOD houses can be used by veterans for an interim period after they leave the service. In addition, a 25-unit supported housing facility for veterans, Mike Jackson House, was opened in Aldershot in 2008. Building work on a similar 31-unit scheme in Catterick started on 19 January 2010.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to minimise the number of ex-service personnel who are street homeless. [314023]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD are always interested in identifying ways in which veterans can be assisted. The Government's commitment was set out in the Service Personnel Command Paper (The Nation's Commitment to our Armed Forces, their families and veterans) in July 2008.

Changes have been made to the law in England and Wales so that servicemen and women are now able to establish a local connection with the district in which they are or have just been serving for the purposes of applying for social housing and homelessness assistance while plans are in place to implement similar arrangements in Scotland. In addition we are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to agree arrangements whereby empty MOD houses can be used by veterans for an interim period after they leave the Service. A 25-unit supported housing facility for veterans, Mike Jackson House, was opened in Aldershot in 2008. Building work on a similar 31-unit scheme in Catterick started on 19 January 2010.

Independent research carried out in London in 2008 by the University of York shows that the proportion of veterans among the homeless population has fallen dramatically over the last 10 years. Veterans now represent some six per cent of the homeless population in London compared with the 22 per cent. found in separate research in 1997. This is a real success story in our strategy to tackle homelessness in London. However, the numbers of ex-service personnel who find themselves homeless are still too high, and we plan to continue to develop our relationships with the charitable sector to ensure we continue to address this very important issue.

## Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate has he made of the number of former service personnel in prison in each year since 1992. [314387]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested is not held. However, the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation have estimated that, as at November 2009, there were 2,207 veterans in prisons in England and Wales out of a total prison population of just over 81,000 offenders. This represents almost 3 per cent. of the prison population and was determined by matching a database of offenders aged 18 and over from the Ministry of Justice against a database of service leavers (regulars only) from the MOD (some 1.3 million records). This is the most comprehensive study to date on veterans in prisons and the estimate of 3 per cent. is in line with a Home Office survey of 2,000 nationally representative offenders at the point of release in 2001, 2003 and 2004, which reported the proportion of veterans to be 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

The DASA report is at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=3&thiscontent=540&PublishTime=16:00:00&date=2010-01-25&disText=Single%20Report&from=listing&topDate=2010-01-25

## HMS Daring

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 35W, on Type 45 destroyers, whether the problems encountered during the test firing of the Sea Viper missile will affect the timetable for bringing HMS Daring into service; and what consideration he has given to fitting HMS Daring with a different missile system. [314377]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** In-depth analysis of the most recent test firing of the Sea Viper Missile System in November 2009, using range and telemetry data, is ongoing. Pending the outcome of this complex investigation, HMS Daring's planned in-service date remains later this year. No consideration has been given to an alternative to the Sea Viper Missile System.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether HMS Daring is to be fitted with a Phalanx system. [314378]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Phalanx Weapons System has not been fitted to HMS Daring although the ship has been designed with the space and services margin to allow additional equipment, including Phalanx, to be fitted. Any such decisions would be made in accordance with the ship's operational requirements.

## HMS Walney

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 35W, on warships, what the crew complement of HMS Walney is. [314302]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** HMS Walney has a complement of 34.

### Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the names are of service personnel who have died in the UK following injuries sustained on active service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan who are not included in the published statistics of those who have died on active service in each of those countries. [314426]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The names of service personnel who sustain injuries while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and who subsequently and sadly then die as a result of those wounds are announced by the Ministry of Defence and eulogised in the same way as those killed in action. Details of all operational fatalities are published on the MOD website. Such individuals are also included in published statistics on fatalities as a result of operations. For example, someone who receives injuries as a result of hostile action, who is then aeromedically evacuated back to the UK and subsequently dies as a result of those wounds, would be announced in the same way as if they had died in Iraq or Afghanistan and would be included in the published statistics as DOW (died of wounds). Consequently there are no service personnel who have died in the UK following injuries sustained on active service in Iraq or Afghanistan who are not included in the published statistics.

### Nimrod Aircraft

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 801, on the future defence programme, how his Department plans to fill the requirement for long-range rescue and maritime reconnaissance after the planned withdrawal of Nimrod. [309239]

**Bill Rammell:** The introduction of the MRA4 will bring a substantially more capable aircraft than the MR2 into the RAF's fleet. In the period of transition until the MRA4 enters service we intend to use other assets, as available, in the long-range search and rescue and maritime reconnaissance roles. We cannot comment on actual capability levels as this is classified information.

### RAF Brize Norton

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days Brize Norton was closed owing to the recent bad weather; how many flights were diverted as a result; and to what destination each was diverted. [313929]

**Bill Rammell:** Between 1 and 17 January RAF Brize Norton closed on three occasions, the longest period of closure was 68 hours and the shortest was three hours. Details of the dates and times of the closures are shown in the following table.

| *Closed* | *Opened* |
|---|---|
| 5 January 2010 at 16:30 hrs | 8 January 2010 at 12:55 hrs |
| 11 January 2010 at 02:15 hrs | 11 January 2010 at 05:15 hrs |
| 13 January 2010 at 01:15 hrs | 13 January 2010 at 13:54 hrs |

During these periods of closure 14 flights were required to divert to other airfields: six to East Midlands Airport; four to Glasgow Prestwick Airport; two to Birmingham International Airport; one to Gatwick Airport; and one to JHC Flying Station Aldergrove.

Delivery of the Afghan airbridge was challenging during the bad weather, however, it continued to operate successfully with outbound flights transferring to East Midlands Airport.

### Type 45 Destroyers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the first in class Type 45 destroyers to be fully operational. [314376]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** HMS Daring is currently undertaking final trials and integration activity prior to achieving her in-service date, which is planned for later this year. At that point she will meet the Royal Navy's minimum operational requirement. A further period of crew training will then be carried out after which Daring will be available for deployment. I am unable to disclose further details as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions there were to hospitals in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what proportion these represented of all admissions in each area in each year. [314022]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is provided in the following table.

*Number of admissions of patients with an alcohol-related diagnosis as a percentage of all finished admissions, by primary care trust of residence*

| | *2007-08* | | | *2008-09* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT name* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 89,524 | 7,153 | 8.0 | 94,216 | 8,279 | 8.8 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 40,288 | 2,825 | 7.0 | 42,758 | 3,014 | 7.0 |
| Barnet PCT | 59,922 | 2,963 | 4.9 | 84,360 | 4,416 | 5.2 |
| Barnsley PCT | 72,377 | 4,531 | 6.3 | 76,571 | 5,270 | 6.9 |
| Bassetlaw PCT | 26,336 | 2,168 | 8.2 | 29,665 | 2,343 | 7.9 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 37,632 | 2,650 | 7.0 | 39,407 | 2,979 | 7.6 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 86,938 | 6,090 | 7.0 | 91,860 | 6,355 | 6.9 |
| Berkshire East PCT | 88,238 | 4,813 | 5.5 | 88,395 | 5,327 | 6.0 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 94,994 | 4,778 | 5.0 | 96,860 | 5,111 | 5.3 |

*Number of admissions of patients with an alcohol-related diagnosis as a percentage of all finished admissions, by primary care trust of residence*

| | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT name* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* |
| Bexley Care Trust | 53,110 | 2,254 | 4.2 | 55,968 | 2,385 | 4.3 |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 115,593 | 6,662 | 5.8 | 113,090 | 7,153 | 6.3 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 49,495 | 2,935 | 5.9 | 42,138 | 2,911 | 6.9 |
| Blackpool PCT | 54,918 | 3,051 | 5.6 | 57,769 | 3,484 | 6.0 |
| Bolton PCT | 70,815 | 5,438 | 7.7 | 75,285 | 5,275 | 7.0 |
| Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 100,996 | 4,658 | 4.6 | 108,439 | 5,298 | 4.9 |
| Bradford and Airedale PCT | 139,396 | 8,509 | 6.1 | 152,059 | 10,020 | 6.6 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 63,894 | 3,738 | 5.8 | 70,789 | 4,202 | 5.9 |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT | 58,363 | 4,655 | 8.0 | 62,839 | 5,150 | 8.2 |
| Bristol PCT | 113,262 | 8,206 | 7.2 | 119,622 | 9,666 | 8.1 |
| Bromley PCT | 74,693 | 4,653 | 6.2 | 83,737 | 5,300 | 6.3 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 116,276 | 5,295 | 4.6 | 116,326 | 5,361 | 4.6 |
| Bury PCT | 54,757 | 3,687 | 6.7 | 57,828 | 4,103 | 7.1 |
| Calderdale PCT | 50,163 | 3,637 | 7.2 | 54,204 | 3,621 | 6.7 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 133,187 | 10,543 | 7.9 | 141,785 | 11,352 | 8.0 |
| Camden PCT | 45,058 | 3,088 | 6.9 | 47,298 | 3,018 | 6.4 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 107,255 | 8,060 | 7.5 | 123,808 | 8,874 | 7.2 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 135,917 | 10,838 | 8.0 | 143,358 | 11,467 | 8.0 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 55,994 | 3,122 | 5.6 | 55,867 | 2,879 | 5.2 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 157,712 | 9,558 | 6.1 | 154,336 | 10,643 | 6.9 |
| County Durham PCT | 141,589 | 10,699 | 7.6 | 154,896 | 13,049 | 8.4 |
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 68,053 | 3,763 | 5.5 | 82,733 | 6,223 | 7.5 |
| Croydon PCT | 75,606 | 4,809 | 6.4 | 84,706 | 5,470 | 6.5 |
| Cumbria PCT | 143,005 | 11,137 | 7.8 | 152,386 | 11,385 | 7.5 |
| Darlington PCT | 27,983 | 2,155 | 7.7 | 30,176 | 2,463 | 8.2 |
| Derby City PCT | 65,934 | 5,320 | 8.1 | 74,680 | 6,580 | 8.8 |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 194,111 | 13,369 | 6.9 | 204,266 | 15,343 | 7.5 |
| Devon PCT | 205,008 | 13,312 | 6.5 | 217,880 | 14,081 | 6.5 |
| Doncaster PCT | 79,035 | 5,735 | 7.3 | 83,074 | 6,090 | 7.3 |
| Dorset PCT | 124,652 | 5,994 | 4.8 | 132,894 | 6,995 | 5.3 |
| Dudley PCT | 90,254 | 6,392 | 7.1 | 96,125 | 7,041 | 7.4 |
| Ealing PCT | 79,447 | 5,581 | 7.0 | 86,081 | 6,381 | 7.4 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 105,737 | 5,635 | 5.3 | 121,484 | 5,799 | 4.8 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 108,912 | 7,784 | 7.1 | 112,425 | 8,039 | 7.2 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 89,784 | 5,125 | 5.7 | 94,397 | 5,208 | 5.5 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 88,350 | 6,536 | 7.4 | 93,079 | 6,736 | 7.2 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 161,183 | 12,005 | 7.4 | 178,740 | 13,336 | 7.5 |
| Enfield PCT | 57,838 | 2,762 | 4.8 | 77,415 | 4,104 | 5.3 |
| Gateshead PCT | 50,242 | 5,173 | 10.3 | 52,919 | 5,670 | 10.7 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 137,676 | 9,968 | 7.2 | 153,462 | 10,936 | 7.1 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 53,937 | 4,467 | 8.3 | 57,242 | 4,687 | 8.2 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 60,413 | 3,028 | 5.0 | 55,439 | 2,809 | 5.1 |
| Halton and St. Helens PCT | 87,252 | 6,994 | 8.0 | 93,517 | 7,891 | 8.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 38,894 | 2,749 | 7.1 | 41,312 | 2,915 | 7.1 |
| Hampshire PCT | 300,722 | 16,088 | 5.3 | 311,343 | 18,359 | 5.9 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 56,191 | 2,727 | 4.9 | 56,417 | 3,170 | 5.6 |
| Harrow PCT | 45,250 | 2,732 | 6.0 | 52,421 | 3,160 | 6.0 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 29,052 | 2,005 | 6.9 | 29,316 | 2,279 | 7.8 |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 51,143 | 3,333 | 6.5 | 54,258 | 3,534 | 6.5 |
| Havering PCT | 52,392 | 3,710 | 7.1 | 56,240 | 4,088 | 7.3 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 72,582 | 5,614 | 7.7 | 75,331 | 5,970 | 7.9 |
| Herefordshire PCT | 41,477 | 2,785 | 6.7 | 45,077 | 3,055 | 6.8 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 65,500 | 5,082 | 7.8 | 67,818 | 5,682 | 8.4 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 62,593 | 4,407 | 7.0 | 68,701 | 4,840 | 7.0 |
| Hounslow PCT | 49,981 | 3,443 | 6.9 | 55,780 | 4,161 | 7.5 |
| Hull PCT | 76,444 | 4,997 | 6.5 | 77,583 | 4,840 | 6.2 |
| Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT | 19,887 | 1,129 | 5.7 | 31,124 | 1,428 | 4.6 |
| Islington PCT | 45,013 | 2,908 | 6.5 | 49,382 | 3,072 | 6.2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 31,148 | 1,893 | 6.1 | 33,336 | 1,993 | 6.0 |
| Kingston PCT | 33,058 | 2,166 | 6.6 | 31,976 | 1,863 | 5.8 |
| Kirklees PCT | 96,878 | 5,072 | 5.2 | 103,199 | 5,840 | 5.7 |

*Number of admissions of patients with an alcohol-related diagnosis as a percentage of all finished admissions, by primary care trust of residence*

| | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT name* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* |
| Knowsley PCT | 52,778 | 3,906 | 7.4 | 52,669 | 4,169 | 7.9 |
| Lambeth PCT | 62,910 | 3,538 | 5.6 | 66,233 | 3,309 | 5.0 |
| Leeds PCT | 187,306 | 11,046 | 5.9 | 202,576 | 12,816 | 6.3 |
| Leicester City PCT | 87,474 | 6,492 | 7.4 | 91,257 | 6,520 | 7.1 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 162,359 | 10,349 | 6.4 | 171,988 | 10,962 | 6.4 |
| Lewisham PCT | 68,935 | 3,638 | 5.3 | 72,763 | 3,996 | 5.5 |
| Lincolnshire PCT | 187,143 | 11,396 | 6.1 | 197,638 | 12,119 | 6.1 |
| Liverpool PCT | 144,965 | 11,945 | 8.2 | 144,152 | 13,054 | 9.1 |
| Luton Teaching PCT | 47,146 | 3,259 | 6.9 | 51,134 | 3,594 | 7.0 |
| Manchester PCT | 125,569 | 9,418 | 7.5 | 136,967 | 10,507 | 7.7 |
| Medway Teaching PCT | 53,911 | 3,755 | 7.0 | 56,156 | 3,983 | 7.1 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 77,275 | 4,281 | 5.5 | 89,777 | 4,931 | 5.5 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 43,951 | 3,696 | 8.4 | 45,991 | 3,858 | 8.4 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 59,689 | 3,435 | 5.8 | 62,336 | 3,315 | 5.3 |
| Newcastle PCT | 78,169 | 7,506 | 9.6 | 83,595 | 7,927 | 9.5 |
| Newham PCT | 77,723 | 3,842 | 4.9 | 78,283 | 3,954 | 5.1 |
| Norfolk PCT | 189,046 | 12,222 | 6.5 | 198,969 | 14,080 | 7.1 |
| North East Essex PCT | 68,208 | 3,784 | 5.5 | 71,738 | 3,950 | 5.5 |
| North East Lincolnshire PCT | 45,040 | 3,382 | 7.5 | 47,529 | 2,885 | 6.1 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 96,870 | 5,916 | 6.1 | 105,379 | 6,858 | 6.5 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 47,098 | 3,624 | 7.7 | 46,502 | 2,986 | 6.4 |
| North Somerset PCT | 56,144 | 4,084 | 7.3 | 58,156 | 4,577 | 7.9 |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 44,571 | 3,208 | 7.2 | 56,202 | 4,187 | 7.4 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 66,488 | 5,248 | 7.9 | 70,475 | 5,731 | 8.1 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 184,460 | 11,500 | 6.2 | 201,026 | 12,669 | 6.3 |
| Northamptonshire PCT | 179,418 | 9,624 | 5.4 | 187,127 | 10,550 | 5.6 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 95,586 | 6,888 | 7.2 | 99,402 | 7,490 | 7.5 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 69,171 | 4,871 | 7.0 | 73,958 | 5,477 | 7.4 |
| Nottinghamshire County PCT | 165,220 | 10,751 | 6.5 | 174,728 | 12,155 | 7.0 |
| Oldham PCT | 69,392 | 4,109 | 5.9 | 66,491 | 4,557 | 6.9 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 140,011 | 6,544 | 4.7 | 136,285 | 7,129 | 5.2 |
| Peterborough PCT | 44,500 | 3,296 | 7.4 | 46,287 | 3,502 | 7.6 |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT | 63,675 | 4,976 | 7.8 | 70,491 | 5,436 | 7.7 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 50,815 | 3,652 | 7.2 | 51,133 | 3,913 | 7.7 |
| Redbridge PCT | 55,423 | 3,581 | 6.5 | 59,439 | 3,898 | 6.6 |
| Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 40,317 | 3,297 | 8.2 | 42,455 | 3,550 | 8.4 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 35,172 | 2,084 | 5.9 | 37,083 | 2,223 | 6.0 |
| Rotherham PCT | 80,729 | 4,478 | 5.5 | 86,009 | 4,985 | 5.8 |
| Salford PCT | 73,170 | 5,537 | 7.6 | 75,053 | 6,147 | 8.2 |
| Sandwell PCT | 88,875 | 6,737 | 7.6 | 96,026 | 6,961 | 7.2 |
| Sefton PCT | 91,661 | 6,348 | 6.9 | 87,483 | 6,697 | 7.7 |
| Sheffield PCT | 145,485 | 6,967 | 4.8 | 152,496 | 8,879 | 5.8 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 71,109 | 4,380 | 6.2 | 75,726 | 4,616 | 6.1 |
| Solihull PCT | 52,907 | 2,946 | 5.6 | 52,185 | 3,168 | 6.1 |
| Somerset PCT | 137,600 | 8,452 | 6.1 | 148,804 | 9,276 | 6.2 |
| South Birmingham PCT | 79,314 | 6,236 | 7.9 | 83,905 | 6,446 | 7.7 |
| South East Essex PCT | 90,346 | 6,262 | 6.9 | 88,733 | 6,929 | 7.8 |
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 64,646 | 4,749 | 7.3 | 66,078 | 4,780 | 7.2 |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 151,441 | 8,927 | 5.9 | 163,241 | 10,486 | 6.4 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 47,450 | 3,745 | 7.9 | 49,968 | 3,961 | 7.9 |
| South West Essex PCT | 88,348 | 5,073 | 5.7 | 94,547 | 5,492 | 5.8 |
| Southampton City PCT | 56,295 | 2,465 | 4.4 | 60,040 | 3,259 | 5.4 |
| Southwark PCT | 63,616 | 3,382 | 5.3 | 69,354 | 3,259 | 4.7 |
| Stockport PCT | 78,746 | 5,493 | 7.0 | 81,717 | 5,779 | 7.1 |
| Stockton-on-Tees Teaching | 54,879 | 3,852 | 7.0 | 57,711 | 4,389 | 7.6 |
| Stoke on Trent PCT | 59,464 | 4,419 | 7.4 | 73,428 | 5,780 | 7.9 |
| Suffolk PCT | 136,353 | 9,570 | 7.0 | 139,751 | 8,982 | 6.4 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 85,385 | 6,491 | 7.6 | 92,955 | 7,588 | 8.2 |
| Surrey PCT | 224,647 | 14,833 | 6.6 | 241,400 | 16,053 | 6.6 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 88,092 | 4,517 | 5.1 | 88,899 | 5,048 | 5.7 |
| Swindon PCT | 48,849 | 2,505 | 5.1 | 53,657 | 3,057 | 5.7 |

*Number of admissions of patients with an alcohol-related diagnosis as a percentage of all finished admissions, by primary care trust of residence*

| | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT name* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* | *Total hospital admissions* | *Alcohol-related hospital admissions* | *ARA as a percentage of total admissions* |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 64,724 | 5,476 | 8.5 | 71,202 | 6,000 | 8.4 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | 39,976 | 2,673 | 6.7 | 41,818 | 2,594 | 6.2 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 37,591 | 3,153 | 8.4 | 39,526 | 3,341 | 8.5 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 48,477 | 2,712 | 5.6 | 47,699 | 2,331 | 4.9 |
| Trafford PCT | 53,608 | 3,525 | 6.6 | 62,207 | 4,236 | 6.8 |
| Wakefield District PCT | 91,148 | 4,840 | 5.3 | 94,782 | 5,236 | 5.5 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 73,285 | 5,420 | 7.4 | 76,446 | 5,855 | 7.7 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 52,680 | 3,116 | 5.9 | 56,946 | 3,444 | 6.0 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 59,111 | 3,308 | 5.6 | 61,077 | 3,372 | 5.5 |
| Warrington PCT | 52,178 | 4,518 | 8.7 | 55,923 | 4,615 | 8.3 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 119,048 | 7,235 | 6.1 | 132,782 | 9,347 | 7.0 |
| West Essex PCT | 69,944 | 4,174 | 6.0 | 73,489 | 4,933 | 6.7 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 108,946 | 6,055 | 5.6 | 128,169 | 7,041 | 5.5 |
| West Kent PCT | 138,909 | 8,225 | 5.9 | 148,637 | 9,015 | 6.1 |
| West Sussex PCT | 189,134 | 12,683 | 6.7 | 197,096 | 13,998 | 7.1 |
| Western Cheshire PCT | 67,560 | 4,650 | 6.9 | 70,679 | 4,869 | 6.9 |
| Westminster PCT | 44,943 | 2,752 | 6.1 | 48,539 | 2,908 | 6.0 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 101,967 | 6,131 | 6.0 | 109,587 | 7,444 | 6.8 |
| Wirral PCT | 97,888 | 8,428 | 8.6 | 102,029 | 8,686 | 8.5 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 69,545 | 4,386 | 6.3 | 74,011 | 4,628 | 6.3 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 126,015 | 9,756 | 7.7 | 141,381 | 11,023 | 7.8 |
| | | | | | | |
| Unknown/no fixed abode | 414,978 | 12,400 | 3.0 | 257,431 | 9,656 | 3.8 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total residents of England | 13,416,299 | 863,257 | 6.4 | 14,085,259 | 945,223 | 6.7 |

*Notes:*

Includes activity in English National Health Service Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

*Alcohol-related conditions*

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

*Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis*

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

*Ungrossed data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

*Secondary diagnosis*

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and 6 prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

*Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Assignment of Episodes to Years*

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

## CJD

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England likely to be carrying infective prions that cause vCJD; whether an assessment has been made of whether any such people are likely to be blood donors; and if he will make a statement. [314082]

**Gillian Merron:** A study of stored tissue samples found abnormal prion protein in three appendices out of 12,674 samples. This suggests a prevalence of about 1 in 4,000, though with very wide confidence interval of between 1 in 1,400 and 1 in 20,000. On the expert advice of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, this single study is given considerable weight, though a larger subsequent study suggests a lower range of estimates. Not all of the individuals in the first study would be of an age eligible to donate blood, nor is it clear whether presence of abnormal prion protein in appendix or tonsil indicates that the blood of such a donor would transmit variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD). So the prevalence of infective donors remains unknown, and all precautionary measures are assessed in the context of that fundamental uncertainty.

The Department commissioned and uses a study by DNV Consulting (London) which assessed the magnitude of the risk from infection with vCJD in blood and blood products. This was published in 2003 and is available at:

www.dnv.com/news_events/news/2004/riskofinfection fromvariantcjdinblood.asp.

Based on this, the Department has published its own risk assessments which underpin departmental policy. These can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Communicablediseases/CJD/ CJDgeneralinformation/DH_4136944

Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

## Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* potential annual rental and *(b)* total book value of the (i) empty and (ii) occupied residential properties owned by his Department. [313752]

**Phil Hope:** The Department currently owns 10 individual residential properties (nine being in one block of which one is occupied). No recent estimate has been made of the potential annual rental value of the block of nine as it is currently in the process of being sold. The estimated annual rental value of the remaining occupied property is £10,800. The current book value of the block of nine is £700,000 and of the individual property £250,000.

## Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314255][1]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has one agency, 10 executive non-departmental public bodies, nine strategic health authorities and 30 advisory non-departmental public bodies. Further detailed information is contained in the "Department of Health's Public Bodies 2009", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This document is also available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/ PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111365

## Health Services: Anguilla

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Anguillan nationals treated by the NHS and *(b)* UK nationals treated in Anguilla under reciprocal healthcare obligations in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was in each case. [314492]

**Gillian Merron:** In the last 12 months, there have been no patient referrals from Anguilla to the United Kingdom, incurring no cost to the national health service. The agreement does not provide for referrals from the United Kingdom to Anguilla. Under the agreement, residents of Anguilla and the United Kingdom can access emergency state healthcare in each country, however no reimbursements are sought from either country for treatment provided, and so the data relating to this are not collected centrally.

## Health Services: Greater London

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the management report on funding for health care in London undertaken for NHS London by McKinsey. [313894]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This is a matter for NHS London, I have asked them to reply to the hon. Member.

## Health Services: Isle of Man

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the net financial effect on the NHS of the withdrawal of reciprocal health arrangements with the Isle of Man. [314584]

**Gillian Merron:** It is essential that all bilateral health care agreements represent value for money to the United Kingdom taxpayer. The net financial effect of withdrawing from the bilateral health care agreement with the Isle of Man will be a £2.82 million saving for the national health service.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 366-7W, on health services: Isle of Man, what types of personal data are contained in the dataset; and if he will publish a version of the dataset with personal data removed. [314590]

**Gillian Merron:** The dataset, originally provided by the Isle of Man Government, contains personal addresses and medical details over a large number of pages. We are therefore not able to publish this information in a redacted form given the disproportionate cost.

## Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the NHS of treating non-UK residents for cardiovascular disease was in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the last five years; [314493]

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[1] *[Official Report, 3 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 13-14MC.]*

(2) what the cost to the NHS was of treating non-UK residents for HIV in each of the last five years. [314499]

**Gillian Merron:** It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of non-United Kingdom residents treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor costs involved.

### Hospitals: Parking

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made as part of its consultation on NHS car parking of the annual revenue raised by NHS hospital trusts from parking charges; what estimate it has made of the cost to NHS hospital trusts of providing free car parking; what consideration he is giving to the merits of providing funding to NHS hospital trusts to offset the revenue foregone through the introduction of free car parking; and over what period he expects any policy on introducing free car parking to be implemented. [314370]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The consultation exercise on car parking for patients and their families at national health service hospitals estimates that current revenue from NHS patients and visitors is in the range from £140 million to £180 million per annum. Estimated costs for each option can be found in the consultation document and impact assessment, which have been placed in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/liveconsultations/dh_110557

Changes to car parking charges will be introduced over the next three years, as savings from back office costs allow.

### Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received of *(a)* the safety of and *(b)* serious adverse reactions to the human papillomavirus vaccine; and if he will make a statement. [314586]

**Gillian Merron:** As of 27 January 2010, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had received 3,402 suspected adverse reaction (ADR) reports for both human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines (Cervarix and Gardasil) including 657 serious suspected ADR reports. The MHRA publishes regular weekly summaries of UK safety data on Cervarix, the vaccine in routine use in the United Kingdom, on its website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/hpvvaccine

MHRA takes into consideration European and worldwide safety data when assessing the safety of HPV vaccine in the UK. To date, the vast majorit[illegible]cted adverse reactions reported to MHRA i[illegible] with Cervarix HPV vaccine have related either to the signs and symptoms of recognised side effects listed in the product information or were due to the injection process and not the vaccine itself. For the isolated cases of other medical conditions reported, the available evidence does not suggest that the vaccine caused the condition and these may have been coincidental events. More than 3.5 million doses of Cervarix vaccine have been given across the UK since September 2008. The Government's independent expert advisory committee, the Commission on Human Medicines, has advised that the balance of risks and benefits of Cervarix remains positive. It is anticipated that HPV vaccine will eventually save up to 400 lives a year. As with any vaccine, the MHRA will continue to closely monitor the safety of Cervarix vaccine.

The latest vaccine safety summary reports published by the MHRA have been placed in the Library. These are entitled: 'Suspected Adverse Reaction Analysis Cervarix Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine' and 'Suspected Adverse Reaction Analysis Cervarix Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (brand unspecified)'.

### Mental Health Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have made use of NHS counselling services as part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme in each of the last two years; [313870]

(2) how many black and ethnic minority people made use of NHS *(a)* counselling, *(b)* psychotherapy and *(c)* psychological therapy services in each of the last five years; [313871]

(3) how many people have made use of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme in each of the last three years; [313875]

(4) if he will make an assessment of the merits of ring-fencing funding for counselling and psychotherapy services in the light of the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [313876]

**Phil Hope:** In the first year of the programme, October 2008 to October 2009, 102,693 people accessed Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services. This is in line with the plans to see 900,000 people in the first three years of the programme. In year two, we have launched a further 111 sites and by the end of 2010-11 all 152 primary care trusts (PCTs) will have an IAPT service. Information on the number of people accessing psychological therapy services was not collected centrally prior to the IAPT programme.

We monitor key performance indicators on a quarterly basis but only centrally collect data on the ethnicity of those accessing services as part of the annual IAPT Data Review. This review is due to report in the coming weeks and we expect to publish the results in March 2010.

The £173 million investment in psychological therapy services has focused on establishing services that are in line with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines, thus offering evidence based treatments. Initially this has meant cognitive behavioural therapy has been the focus of the IAPT training programme and therefore the main offer from IAPT services. The recent update of the NICE guidelines for the treatment of depression means that a wider range of therapies, including therapy, couples therapy, interpersonal therapy, counselling, collaborative care and brief dynamic therapy, will soon also be available through IAPT services as they mature.

The funding for IAPT services has, to date, been through centrally allocated funds. From April 2010, the majority of the central investment will be allocated to all PCTs in their baseline allocation, while new services may receive additional centrally allocated funds as they come on stream in 2010-11. From the outset of the programme it was always envisaged that funding for IAPT services would move to PCTs at the earliest opportunity. The collection and publication of benchmarking data, the monitoring of regional delivery plans and the well established national health service performance framework mean that the ongoing ring-fencing of NHS money is not appropriate.

The economic downturn has highlighted the need to ensure people have access to psychological therapies and in March 2009 a £13 million package of measures was introduced to respond to the impact the economic downturn may have on people's mental health. Measures introduced include: introducing employment support functions into all IAPT services, the establishment of NHS Stressline, improving the information online about mental well-being and services, establishing IAPT services more quickly and training those working in primary care to better understand and address people's emotional well-being needs.

## Mental Health Services: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, whether the £11 million allocated to primary care trusts for the provision of annual health checks to individuals with learning disabilities is ring-fenced. [314714]

**Phil Hope:** The sums paid to practices under the Learning Disabilities Health Check Scheme Directed Enhanced Service is not ring-fenced, rather primary care trusts (PCTs) will have to meet these costs from within their overall allocations, which increased by 5.5 per cent. on average in 2009-10, as set out in the NHS Operating Framework for that year.

## MMR Vaccine

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the measles, mumps and rubella vaccination rate was for those aged under 18 *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years. [313685]

**Gillian Merron:** The uptake rate of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and other vaccines is monitored through the COVER (coverage of vaccination evaluated rapidly) collection made by the Health Protection Agency. COVER reports rates of MMR vaccination at the age of two years (for one dose of MMR) and at five years (for one and two doses of MMR). The rate of MMR uptake is not collected after the age of five.

The following tables show COVER data for the past five financial years.

Table 1 shows national and regional data (strategic health authorities).

Table 2 shows data for London primary care trusts (PCTs).

| | *2004-05* | | | *2005-06* | | | *2006-07* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* |
| | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* |
| England | 81 | 89 | 73 | 84 | 87 | 74 | 85 | 86 | 73 |
| *Strategic health authority (SHA)* | | | | | | | | | |
| North East | 85 | 92 | 80 | 87 | 91 | 80 | 89 | 88 | 80 |
| North West | 84 | 91 | 77 | 86 | 90 | 76 | 88 | 89 | 77 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 83 | 91 | 76 | 86 | 89 | 76 | 87 | 90 | 77 |
| East Midlands | 86 | 93 | 79 | 88 | 91 | 79 | 88 | 90 | 77 |
| West Midlands | 83 | 92 | 78 | 85 | 90 | 78 | 88 | 89 | 79 |
| East of England | 81 | 88 | 76 | 84 | 85 | 76 | 86 | 84 | 74 |
| London | 71 | 79 | 57 | 73 | 77 | 52 | 75 | 76 | 52 |
| South East | 81 | 88 | 72 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South East Coast | — | — | — | 83 | 84 | | 84 | 82 | 71 |
| South Central | — | — | — | 86 | 87 | 74 | 88 | 86 | 73 |
| South West | 80 | 91 | 77 | 86 | 89 | 79 | 87 | 88 | 78 |

| | *2007-08* | | | *2008-09* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* |
| | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* |
| England | 85 | 87 | 74 | 85 | 89 | 78 |

| | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* | *Percentage immunised with (1 dose) of MMR by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with 1st and 2nd dose of MMR by age:* |
| | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* |
| *Strategic health authority (SHA)* | | | | | | |
| North East | 88 | 92 | 82 | 88 | 93 | 85 |
| North West | 87 | 91 | 78 | 87 | 93 | 83 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 85 | 89 | 77 | 87 | 92 | 82 |
| East Midlands | 89 | 91 | 80 | 88 | 92 | 84 |
| West Midlands | 86 | 90 | 80 | 88 | 91 | 82 |
| East of England | 84 | 85 | 75 | 84 | 87 | 78 |
| London | 74 | 75 | 49 | 76 | 81 | 63 |
| South East | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South East Coast | 83 | 84 | 72 | 85 | 87 | 76 |
| South Central | 86 | 88 | 75 | 88 | 90 | 79 |
| South West | 88 | 90 | 82 | 87 | 92 | 83 |

*Note:*
In 2005-06 South East SHA was divided into South East Coast and South Central as part of the reconfiguration process

*Percentage immunised by their second and fifth birthday by London PCT*

| | | 2004-05 | | | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age:* | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age:* | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age:* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age:* |
| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* |
| 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 75 | 82 | 70 | 74 | 82 | 66 | 71 | 82 | 60 |
| 5A9 | Barnet PCT | 74 | 82 | 56 | 74 | 82 | 58 | 77 | 76 | 60 |
| TAK | Bexley Care Trust | 66 | 77 | 61 | 72 | 68 | 51 | 74 | 70 | 50 |
| 5K5 | Brent Teaching PCT | 80 | 85 | 71 | 80 | 84 | — | 79 | 76 | — |
| 5A7 | Bromley PCT | 67 | 82 | 46 | 73 | 77 | 47 | 77 | 74 | 46 |
| 5K7 | Camden PCT | 63 | 79 | 52 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 71 | 84 | 57 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5K9 | Croydon PCT | 66 | 78 | 52 | 71 | 81 | 57 | 77 | 85 | 59 |
| 5HX | Ealing PCT | 78 | 82 | 62 | 83 | 79 | 59 | 75 | 74 | 62 |
| 5C1 | Enfield PCT | 72 | 79 | 64 | — | — | — | 63 | 72 | 45 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | 69 | 77 | 44 | 59 | 61 | 33 | 71 | 65 | 39 |
| 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 69 | 81 | 60 | 80 | 81 | 65 | 80 | 79 | 62 |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching PCT | 74 | 75 | 55 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5K6 | Harrow PCT | 90 | 77 | 58 | 86 | 90 | 73 | 84 | 89 | 69 |
| 5A4 | Havering PCT | 74 | 87 | 76 | 79 | 82 | 71 | 71 | 82 | 60 |
| 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 74 | 87 | 66 | 77 | 85 | 62 | 78 | 83 | 62 |
| 5HY | Hounslow PCT | 81 | 85 | 66 | 82 | 82 | 64 | 82 | 81 | 64 |
| 5K8 | Islington PCT | 69 | 83 | 62 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 50 | 70 | 33 | 52 | 63 | — | 80 | 68 | 39 |
| 5A5 | Kingston PCT | 86 | 84 | 67 | 91 | 85 | 72 | 89 | 84 | 75 |
| 5LD | Lambeth PCT | 54 | 73 | 46 | 64 | 73 | 48 | 72 | 71 | 44 |
| 5LF | Lewisham PCT | 56 | 72 | 43 | 64 | 73 | 47 | 67 | 71 | 48 |
| 5C5 | Newham PCT | 76 | 77 | 57 | — | — | — | 69 | 78 | 41 |
| 5NA | Redbridge PCT | 82 | 85 | 73 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 74 | 78 | 61 | 78 | 77 | 64 | 80 | 73 | 61 |
| 5LE | Southwark PCT | 60 | 77 | 48 | 63 | 76 | 50 | 64 | 68 | 47 |
| 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 78 | 81 | 66 | 82 | 77 | 64 | 92 | 77 | 68 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 66 | 79 | 53 | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*Percentage immunised by their second and fifth birthday by London PCT*

| | | *2004-05* | | | *2005-06* | | | *2006-07* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age* | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age* | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age* |
| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | 86 | 87 | 78 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | 72 | 70 | 52 | 65 | 66 | 51 | 64 | 63 | 50 |
| 5LC | Westminster PCT | 71 | 72 | 12 | 82 | 78 | — | 81 | 82 | 59 |

| | | *2007-08* | | | *2008-09* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age* | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1 dose) by age* | | *Percentage immunised with MMR (1st and 2nd dose) by age* |
| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *2 yrs* | *5 yrs* | *5 yrs* |
| 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 77 | 76 | 60 | 73 | 73 | 53 |
| 5A9 | Barnet PCT | 74 | 74 | 59 | 80 | 84 | 82 |
| TAK | Bexley Care Trust | 72 | 73 | 51 | 71 | 78 | 58 |
| 5K5 | Brent Teaching PCT | 76 | 78 | 43 | 56 | 60 | 32 |
| 5A7 | Bromley PCT | 78 | — | — | 82 | 82 | 75 |
| 5K7 | Camden PCT | 63 | 73 | — | 72 | 81 | 51 |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | — | — | — | 70 | 67 | 37 |
| 5K9 | Croydon PCT | 77 | 84 | 64 | 78 | 87 | 71 |
| 5HX | Ealing PCT | 77 | 85 | 67 | 76 | 95 | 63 |
| 5C1 | Enfield PCT | 74 | 70 | 45 | 74 | 78 | 62 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | 64 | 66 | 39 | 68 | 73 | 57 |
| 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 86 | 89 | 69 | 70 | 81 | 51 |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching PCT | — | — | — | 56 | 71 | 38 |
| 5K6 | Harrow PCT | 80 | 91 | 66 | 85 | 93 | 78 |
| 5A4 | Havering PCT | 77 | 82 | 67 | 77 | 82 | 68 |
| 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 73 | 71 | — | 81 | 83 | 76 |
| 5HY | Hounslow PCT | — | — | — | 67 | 80 | 53 |
| 5K8 | Islington PCT | 69 | 73 | 43 | 76 | 83 | 59 |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 86 | 65 | — | 84 | 79 | 65 |
| 5A5 | Kingston PCT | 83 | 86 | 76 | 86 | 85 | 77 |
| 5LD | Lambeth PCT | — | — | — | 74 | 83 | 63 |
| 5LF | Lewisham PCT | 61 | 67 | 45 | 74 | 79 | 51 |
| 5C5 | Newham PCT | 70 | 76 | 42 | 68 | 89 | 80 |
| 5NA | Redbridge PCT | — | — | — | 79 | 79 | 66 |
| 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 78 | 73 | 61 | 86 | 96 | 82 |
| 5LE | Southwark PCT | 65 | 73 | 51 | 75 | 77 | 55 |
| 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 78 | 78 | 68 | 84 | 86 | 79 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 78 | 87 | 66 | 82 | 90 | 79 |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | 78 | 79 | 40 | 84 | 86 | 72 |
| 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | — | — | — | 86 | 82 | 71 |
| 5LC | Westminster PCT | — | — | — | 88 | 94 | 81 |

*Note:*

Some PCTs were not able to provide figures due to problems relating to implementation of new Child Health Systems.

## NHS: Drugs

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Billericay of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1168W, on drugs, when he expects to receive the report from Professor Sir Mike Richards; and whether he plans to publish the findings of that investigation before April 2010. [313912]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We expect to receive the report from Professor Sir Mike Richards shortly. A date has not yet been set for publication.

## Prescription Drugs

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will issue guidance on liability in cases where a drug automatically generically substituted by a pharmacist adversely affects a patient and that patient's GP has not informed the pharmacist that such adverse effects are likely; [314185]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect of implementation of proposals for automatic generic substitution of medicines on the workload of *(a)* clinicians, *(b)* pharmacists, *(c)* nurse prescribers and *(d)* other health professionals; and if he will make a statement. [314190]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In developing the proposals and analysis set out in the consultation document "The proposals to implement 'Generic Substitution' in primary care, further to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) 2009" and its associated partial impact assessment, published on 5 January 2010, the Department was informed by information from stakeholders, including concerns relating to liability. Under the Department's preferred approach (option 3), there are mechanisms for ensuring that patients continue to receive the most appropriate treatment.

Therefore, we believe the liability risks associated with the proposed generic substitution arrangements should not be any greater than under current prescribing and dispensing arrangements. The Department has not issued guidance on liability for prescribing and does not anticipate that such a need will arise under the generic substitution arrangements.

The Department's assessment of the overall effect of implementation on the workload of health professionals is set out in the accompanying partial impact assessment.

We recognise that further evidence may be available in relation to both liability and impact on health professionals' workload, which is why we are holding a full public consultation, to which all those with an interest can input, including patients. The consultation document and partial impact assessment can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/index.htm

Copies have already been placed in the Library. Details of the consultation events are on the NHS Primary Care Commissioning website at:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/events

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in implementing the commitment to exempt from prescription charges those with long-term conditions. [314332]

**Patrick Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Professor Gilmore's review of prescription charges and his Department's response will be published; and whether asthma is to be included in the list of long-term conditions exempted from charges. [314561]

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to exempt from prescription charges those with long-term conditions; what assessment he has made of Sir Ian Gilmore's review of prescription charges; when he expects that review to be published; and if he will make a statement. [314566]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Professor Gilmore has now submitted his report on exempting people with long-term conditions from prescription charges to the Department. The recommendations are currently being considered. We will publish our response shortly.

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress his Department has made towards exempting from prescription charges patients with long-term medical conditions; [314599]

(2) when he expects Professor Ian Gilmore's review of prescription charges to be published. [314681]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The exemption for cancer patients came in on 1 April 2009. Professor Gilmore has now submitted his report on exempting people with long-term conditions from prescription charges to the Department. The recommendations are currently being considered. We will publish our response shortly.

### Social Services: Vulnerable Adults

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department made of the quality of reports of serious case reviews on vulnerable adults in each local authority area in the last two years. [314050]

**Phil Hope:** No assessments have been carried by central Government on the quality of reports of serious case reviews. Serious case reviews are commissioned by local Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB), which are set up by local authorities. SABs have a large number of local members, including representatives from the National Health Service, police and the voluntary sector. Many boards have jointly agreed protocols about when and how to commission a serious case review and will jointly agree terms of reference and will jointly agree the final report.

The Government have commissioned research by Kings College London and Social Care Workforce Research Unit on serious case reviews, which is on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Vulnerableadults/Research/index.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

In response to the Government's consultation on strengthening protection for vulnerable adults, new legislation will be introduced to enshrine in law the need for each local area to work to a statutory SAB and we will set in train a programme of work to lead and support all agencies involved in safeguarding adults. There will also be a new cross-Government ministerial group which will oversee the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, set priorities, work up new policy and provide national leadership.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many serious case reviews regarding safeguarding adults have taken place in each local authority in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [314051]

**Phil Hope:** The number of serious case reviews is not currently collected centrally.

We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that, on 25 January 2010, recommendations were made to CQC's safeguarding committee to bring in procedures to collect data on all serious case reviews notified to CQC. Implementation is expected later this year.

### Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will visit Southend Hospital Trust to discuss *(a)* the time taken by nurses to respond to patient buzzers and *(b)* ways of improving standards of care on wards; and if he will make a statement. [314498]

**Phil Hope:** There are currently no plans to visit Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Foundation trusts (FTs) are free from central Government control and accountable to Monitor for their operation. Boards are responsible for the day to day management of the trust, setting their own strategies and making their own decisions within a framework of national standards and local accountability. Any concerns or issues relating to the operation of an FT should be directed to the chairman of the organisation and the chairman of Monitor.

### Strokes: Health Services

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of stroke patients in each primary care trust area received thrombolysis treatment in the latest period figures are available; and when he expects the national target of 10 per cent. to be achieved. [313760]

**Ann Keen:** The latest period for which figures are available is 2008-09, coinciding with the first year of implementation of the stroke strategy, and these data have been placed in the Library. More recent information from the Safe Implementation of Thrombolysis in Stroke database suggests that, between 2007 and 2009, there has been a significant increase in the United Kingdom of the number patients treated with thrombolysis.

There is no national target for thrombolysis rates. This is a treatment that will only be suitable for a certain proportion of those who experience a stroke. For thrombolysis to be administered safely and with greatest effectiveness a number of conditions must apply, which are characteristic of a high quality stroke service as set out in the national stroke strategy. There has been good progress on all of these quality markers. We have taken steps such as the F.A.S.T campaign to raise awareness of the need to regard stroke as an emergency and the establishment of new elements of the payment by results tariff to give further support to the development of thrombolysis services.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality for how many non-departmental public bodies the Government Equalities Office is responsible. [314258]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office sponsors two non-departmental public bodies (NDPB), they are:

(i) The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

(ii) The Women's National Commission (WNC)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is an executive NDPB which exists under statute and has enforcement powers to stop discrimination whereas the Women's National Commission is an advisory NDPB and brings the voice of women to Government.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 28W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which private sector organisation was given permission to use the resources of the Commission; what payments that organisation made in respect of such usage; whether such usage was approved by a member of the Commission's board; and for what reason permission was given. [312053]

**Maria Eagle:** The Chair of the Commission, Trevor Phillips, was given permission to use Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) offices for meetings in relation to non-Commission business on a maximum of six occasions per year. Since December 2007, only two such meetings were held at Commission premises, both in 2008. Following discussions, it was agreed to terminate this agreement in July 2009. No charge was made for the use of Commission's offices.

This arrangement was agreed by the former Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the EHRC, Nicola Brewer.

This arrangement was made in view of the fact that the Chair was employed on a part-time basis and such use of the Commission building might occasionally be necessary in order to make optimal use of the Chair's time.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions she has had with the Advertising Standards Authority on its powers to verify claims made by airlines that they are able to prove a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. [311957]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

None. The Advertising Standards Authority is an independent body regulated by the Office of Communications (Ofcom). The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills lead on issues regarding consumer protection, and share policy responsibility for Ofcom with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

### Electoral Register

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the electoral registration rate was in each constituency in the UK, rated in descending order, in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [311930]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:*

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your question asking what the electoral regulation rate was in each constituency in the UK, rated in descending order, in (a) 1997 and (b) the latest year for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (311930)

The attached table shows the number of people who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the estimated resident population aged 18 and over for each parliamentary constituency in the UK for 2007. This is the latest year for which estimates of the usually resident population are available by parliamentary constituency for the UK. Comparable figures are not provided for 1997 as population estimates by parliamentary constituency are only published from 2001 onwards. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

These figures should not be interpreted as the electoral registration rate. The population eligible to vote in parliamentary elections includes British Citizens or qualifying Commonwealth citizens resident overseas and excludes foreign citizens (from outside the British Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland) resident within the UK.

In addition, figures for the registered electorate may be inflated because people who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died. This may lead to percentages of over one hundred per cent and can affect the comparability of figures across parliamentary constituencies.

### Public Bodies: Billing

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether an impact assessment has been made of the likely effects on public bodies of EU proposals to fine such bodies for not paying invoices on time. [312295]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published an impact assessment on the EU proposal for combating late payment in commercial transactions in October 2009. It can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/ria/index.html

### Survival Rate: Cancer

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the survival rate for each type of cancer was in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland (i) in 2000 and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [313645]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 1 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the survival rate for each type of cancer was in (a) the UK, (b) each region of England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland (i) in 2000 and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [313645]

ONS does not produce cancer survival rates for (a) the UK. However, survival rates for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers in the UK for patients diagnosed in 1995-99 and followed up to 2001 were published in 2009 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in their 'Health at a Glance' publication.[1] and can be found on the OECD website at:

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/7/43947803.xls

The figures published by OECD for the UK may not be directly comparable with those published by ONS and other organisations for the constituent countries, because of differences in methodology.

The latest available one- and five-year survival rates for England, for 21 common cancers, for patients diagnosed in 2001-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Comparable survival rates for England for each preceding five year period back to 1998-2001 and followed up to 2003 can also be downloaded from this link.

The latest one- and five-year survival rates for eight common cancers by (b) government office region (and strategic health authority), for patients diagnosed in 1997-1999 and followed up to the end of 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991

Comparable survival rates by government office region (and strategic health authority) for each preceding five year period back to 1994-1996 and followed up to 2001 can also be downloaded from this link.

Cancer survival rates for (c) Scotland are published by the Information Services Division, NHS Services Scotland. One-, three-, five- and ten-year survival rates by age group and period of diagnosis are produced for specific cancers. The latest information for patients diagnosed between 2000 and 2004 can be downloaded from this link:

http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/183.html

Cancer survival rates for (d) Wales are published by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence Surveillance Unit. One-, three- and five-year survival rates by period of diagnosis for individual cancers are produced. The latest information can be downloaded from this link:

http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=242 &pid=28939

Cancer survival rates for (e) Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry. One-, three-, five- and seven-year survival rates for the most common cancers are produced. The latest survival rates can be downloaded from this link:

http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr/Data/Online Statistics/
#d.en.26094

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Boilers: Wales

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on the guidance issued by his Department on the operation of the boiler scrappage scheme. [312846]

**Joan Ruddock:** Officials in the Department have shared guidance and analysis on the operation of the boiler scrappage scheme with officials in the Welsh Assembly Government.

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[1] Woods L, Walters S, Steward, J, Gavin A, Cooper N, Brewster D, Coleman MP, Rachet B (2009) "Health at a Glance 2009 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Indicators: Cancer Survival for the UK": OECD

## Climate Change

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what historical data his Department uses in its climate change calculations. [311916]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change draws on historical data provided in the published literature and by scientific experts, some under contract, as required.

## Departmental Consultants

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on strategic consultancy in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [311570]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate change has spent nothing on strategic consultancy in either 2008-09 or 2009-10.

## Departmental Disclosure of Information

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to *(a)* companies or individuals in the private sector and *(b)* other organisations. [313223]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Coal Authority is a public sector data holder and provider accredited by the Information Fair Trader Scheme. It provides a statutory information-provision service on a cost-recovery basis and charges for commercial information-provision at market rates consistent with fair-trade rules. It supplies information to a range of customers including companies, private individuals and other organisations.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312833]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created in October 2008 with staff from DEFRA and BERR. A single staffing structure was introduced from August 2009. This consists of seven layers below the senior civil service (administrative assistant, administrative officer, executive officer, higher executive officer, senior executive officer, Grade 7 and Grade 6) and four layers within the senior civil service (permanent secretary, director general, director and head of team). There are additionally a number of specialist grades among economists and statisticians—however, these have equivalents within the named layers.

The Department cannot provide information on staff numbers or salary costs by layer except at disproportionate cost.

## Electricity

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what mechanisms are in place to encourage consumers to improve their power factor; and whether he has plans to bring forward proposals for further incentives; [312345]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the merits of increasing the level of charges levied on consumers for excess reactive power in respect of the likely effects of such an increase on consumers' power factors. [312346]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* Business consumers of electricity with poor power factors require more network capacity. This increases the initial cost of connecting to an electricity network and gives such customers an incentive to install power factor correction equipment to reduce these costs—it is for customers however to judge whether the cost of this equipment is justified.

Reactive energy 'consumption' is highest in industrial premises with poor power factors. Under their licences, electricity distribution network operators (DNOs) must have a common set of cost reflective charging arrangements for lower voltages, including for reactive power, in place by 1 April 2010 (arrangements for the highest voltage levels will be put in place by 1 April 2011).

Under this common charging methodology, DNOs will be obliged to charge all eligible customers with a poor power factor. Any increase in the level of charges could be expected to improve consumers' power factors and therefore reduce reactive power consumption. However any increase in charges would need to be demonstrated to be cost reflective.

## Energy: Prices

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to prevent the closure of social tariff schemes by energy suppliers. [313755]

**Mr. Kidney:** Help with energy bills, including social tariffs and rebates, are some of the support measures that suppliers provide through the voluntary agreement negotiated by Government in 2008. This support has provided real help to the lives of some of the most vulnerable.

This is why we announced we would place the voluntary agreement on a statutory footing, and increase the resources suppliers are required to make available, when the voluntary agreement ends in March 2011. Primary legislation to enable this is currently before Parliament as part of the Energy Bill, and subject to the successful passage of the Bill we will require suppliers to spend £300 million by 2013-14. This will mean additional help for more of the most vulnerable.

## Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Stroud constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire which (i) were in fuel poverty in the latest period for which figures are available, (ii) have come out of fuel poverty since 1997 and (iii) re-entered fuel poverty since 1997. [310978]

**Mr. Kidney:** In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 4,200 fuel poor households in Stroud, and 24,000 fuel poor households living in Gloucestershire. Corresponding figures for 1996 are not available.

Fuel poverty estimates are derived from a survey, which provides a means of producing aggregate data on numbers of households in fuel poverty, but does not allow for details of individual households moving in to or out of fuel poverty to be monitored, as a different sample of households are surveyed each year.

In England as a whole, fuel poverty has reduced from 5.1 million households in 1996, to 2.8 million households in 2007.

### Government Departments: Energy

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 134W, on government Departments: energy, which Departments have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded a grant through the (i) Low Carbon Technology Programme and (ii) Salix finance scheme; and how much funding has been awarded to each Government Department through each scheme. [312797]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The information requested is as follows:

(i) The following central Government Departments and their agencies have applied for and been allocated funding from the Low Carbon Technology Programme for 2009-10. Every Department that applied for funding has received some level of funding. The amounts that they have been granted are listed:

| | *Funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Cabinet Office (including the COI) | 873,000 |
| Communities and Local Government (including grants to Government office for the north-east and Government office for the west midlands) | 954,000 |
| Ministry of Justice (Crown Prosecution Service) | 164,000 |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families | 196,000 |
| Department for Transport (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) | 192,000 |
| Department of Health | 326,000 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 244,000 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | 1,975,000 |
| HM Treasury | 18,000 |
| Home Office | 591,000 |
| Ministry of Defence (including the Met Office) | 8,451,000 |
| Forestry Commission | 1,525,000 |

Although this funding has been allocated to Departments for a range of projects, the actual spend amounts may be different, as the cost of work and capital items may be subject to change.

(ii) Through the Salix Finance scheme, the following Government Departments have applied for a repayable grant in 2009/10, and have had their applications approved. The Home Office applied for funding but has since withdrawn its application as it has found funding from its own budgets. The Ministry of Defence has applied for funding since the previous PQ was answered.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| MOD | 2,700,000 |
| DECC | 182,000 |
| MOJ (including National Offender Management Service) | 2,523,000 |
| DWP | 451,000 |
| BIS | 516,000 |
| Cabinet Office | 1,317,000 |

These funds have been committed to the Departments by Salix Finance, though final amounts spent may change.

### Hinkley Point C Power Station

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his Department's letter to the hon. Member for Bridgwater of 7 December 2009 on Hinkley C, whether the decision on whether proposed associated facilities can be given consent as associated development under the Planning Act 2008 will ultimately be a matter for the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [314043]

**Mr. Kidney:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's letter of 7 December 2009 provided general guidance on the nature of associated development and associated facilities, and did not represent specific guidance in relation to the potential application for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C.

Where a national policy statement has effect, the Planning Act 2008 provides that it is for the Infrastructure Planning Commission to decide whether development is "associated development" in accordance with s.115 of the Act and having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This guidance is currently set out in the 'Guidance on associated development', issued in September 2009, which includes examples of associated facilities and development as set out in Annex A of the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/guidanceassocdevelopment.pdf

Where an NPS is not yet designated, the Infrastructure Planning Commission would consider the application for associated development and facilities as part of their consideration of the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for a decision.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the prohibition on obtaining consent for dwellings referred to in his Department's letter to the hon. Member for Bridgwater of 7 December 2009 on Hinkley C extends to *(a)* a prohibition on consent for housing falling within Class C3 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 and *(b)* a prohibition on the granting of consent under the Planning Act 2009 for construction worker accommodation. [314081]

**Mr. Kidney:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's letter of 7 December 2009, provided general guidance on the nature of associated development and associated facilities, and did not represent specific guidance in relation to the potential application for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C.

Under the Planning Act 2008, a development consent order for nationally significant infrastructure can cover "associated development". For these purposes, "associated development" excludes the construction or extension of one or more dwellings. Where the decision maker is the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), the IPC has to take its decision in accordance with section 115 of the Planning Act 2008 and have regard to the "Guidance on associated development", issued by the Secretary of State in September 2009.

Where an NPS is not yet designated, the Infrastructure Planning Commission would consider the application for associated development and facilities as part of their consideration of the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for a decision.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid in compensation to coalminers and their families in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency from each of his Department's two major personal injury compensation schemes since May 2005. [314419]

**Mr. Kidney:** The amount of compensation paid to coalminers and their families in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency under Coal Health Compensation schemes for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) since May 2005 is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *COPD* | *VWF* |
|---|---|---|
| Total damages paid | 3.7 | 1.3 |

### Micro-Combined Heat and Power

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he and his officials have had meetings with colleagues at the Treasury on the introduction of a feed-in tariff for micro-combined heat and power since December 2009; and if he will make a statement. [310988]

**Mr. Kidney:** The DECC ministerial team, DECC officials and I, regularly discuss the development of policies, including the proposed feed-in tariffs policy, with colleagues from other Departments including HM Treasury.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he and his officials have had with their Treasury counterparts since December 2009 on the introduction of a feed-in tariff for micro-combined heat and power; and if he will make a statement. [314534]

**Mr. Kidney:** The ministerial team and officials from DECC regularly discuss the development of policies, including the proposed feed-in tariffs policy, with colleagues from other Departments including HM Treasury.

### Microgeneration

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which working groups and committees have been advising his Department on the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. [312472]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is overseen by the MCS Steering Group and has 10 technical working groups which develop standards and advise the MCS Steering Group on technical matters in relation to microgeneration products and installations.

Members of the MCS Steering Group represent stakeholders that have a relevant interest in the microgeneration industry. They include representatives of all the key trade associations in the microgeneration industry, consumer groups, UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service), MCS Certification Bodies, SummitSkills, The Energy Saving Trust, The Carbon Trust, manufacturers, devolved Administrations and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The technical working groups report to the MCS Steering Group. They are made up of experts on standards, and other technical experts in each relevant field. Each technical working group has its own chair.

The 10 MCS technical working groups are:

WG1 Solar Thermal;
WG2 Solar Photovoltaic;
WG3 Wind;
WG4 Micro Hydro;
WG5 Biomass;
WG6 Heat Pumps;
WG7 Micro CHP;
WG8 Renewable CHP;
WG9 Fuel Cells;
WG10 Roofing Issues.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process was used to elect the Chair of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme; and what the role of the Chair of the Scheme is. [312473]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The Chair of the MCS Steering Group is elected by members of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) Steering Group. Members of the MCS Steering Group represent stakeholders that have a relevant interest in the microgeneration industry.

The election process requires members of the MCS Steering Group to put forward nominations for the post of Chair. Nominees do not have to be members of the MCS Steering Group but must meet criteria appropriate for the post. The Steering Group members are sent ballot papers by post and asked to vote for one nominee. The process is managed by Gemserv, the MCS Administrator.

The current Chair, Gideon Richards, was appointed by this process on 22 June 2009. The role of the MCS Steering Group Chairman is to chair all MCS Steering

Group meetings. He undertakes to put key MCS decisions to a vote of the Steering Group and ensures that new MCS standards, and revisions to MCS standards, are approved by MCS Steering Group members.

The wider remit of the Chair of the MCS Steering Panel is to ensure that the needs of consumers, industry, certification bodies, manufacturers and other stakeholders are carefully balanced and that the MCS standards are maintained and developed in line with European and international requirements.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Microgeneration Certification Scheme certificates have been issued to installers. [314337]

**Joan Ruddock:** As of 22 January 2010, Gemserv (MCS Administrator) has issued 519 MCS certificates to installer companies.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost to an installer of microgeneration products of the steps necessary to attain certification under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. [314393]

**Joan Ruddock:** The cost for installer companies to become MCS certificated includes a range of variables, such as the type of technology being installed, the certification body's costs, quality assurance systems already in place, as well as other factors. An installer company can contact a MCS certification body—see list of CBs at:

http://www.microgenerationcertification.org/Certification+Bodies

to seek an estimate of likely costs for their specific requirements.

Product certification includes the following elements:

(a) Manufacturer to ensure that it meets the scheme requirements (MCS standards).

(b) Factory production control assessment.

(c) Verification of test protocols.

Further information is available on the scheme's website:

http://www.microgenerationcertification.org

## Wind Power

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's estimate is of the number of off-shore wind farms to be licensed over the next 10 years. [313955]

**Mr. Kidney:** It is not possible to estimate the number of licence applications that might be made over the next 10 years for offshore wind farms, because this will depend on the number of projects brought forward by developers. It is also not possible to know how many applications will then receive the necessary development consent orders, as the success of an application depends on a whole range of factors.

# HOME DEPARTMENT

## Airguns

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many air weapons have been seized by police in each year since 1997. [312758]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** These data are not collected centrally.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Prosecutions

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18-year-olds have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* cautioned and *(c)* prosecuted for alcohol-related offences in each year since 1997. [313621]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 27 January 2010]*: Information showing the number of offenders aged 10 to 17 years cautioned and proceeded against in England and Wales for alcohol-related offences from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Data for 2008 will be available very soon.

*Number of persons aged 10 to 17 years cautioned and the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol related offences[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2007*

| | Cautioned[2,3] | Proceeded against[4] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,325 | 3,324 |
| 1998 | 3,102 | 3,339 |
| 1999 | 2,677 | 3,579 |
| 2000 | 2,428 | 3,869 |
| 2001 | 2,337 | 4,209 |
| 2002 | 2,129 | 4,081 |
| 2003 | 2,440 | 4,324 |
| 2004 | 2,550 | 3,988 |
| 2005 | 1,927 | 3,321 |
| 2006 | 1,535 | 3,188 |
| 2007 | 1,664 | 3,380 |

[1] Includes offences of: Drunkenness, simple; Drunkenness, with aggravation; Offence by licensed person, etc.; Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs. Other offences against Intoxicating Liquor Laws.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] The prosecutions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

*Note:*

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Asylum: Rape

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* national guidelines and *(b)* international agreements apply to women seeking asylum who have been rape victims; what account is taken of the provisions of such guidelines and agreements in assessing such applications; in what circumstances such women may be deported if their asylum applications fail; and what (i) support and (ii) advice is provided for such women who are held in immigration removal centres. [311434]

**Mr. Woolas:** All asylum and human rights claims, including those from women who assert they have been, or fear becoming, victims of rape are carefully considered in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 refugee convention and the European convention on human rights (ECHR) and the UK's immigration rules. Every case is considered on its individual merits in the light of country of origin information based upon published and respected sources which are regularly reviewed and updated.

Although gender is not listed as a basis on which asylum can be sought under the 1951 convention, in some cases gender may be a factor in recognising membership of a "particular social group" or an identifying characteristic of such a group and there are forms of harm that are more frequently or only used against women and which may amount to persecution.

The UK Border Agency's case owner foundation training programme covers gender issues in the asylum claim and in addition case owners receive instruction on dealing sensitively with asylum applicants who claim to have been tortured or raped. There is specific written guidance for asylum decision makers on gender issues and victims of trafficking.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, we expect unsuccessful asylum seekers to return voluntarily to their country of origin. If they do not return voluntarily we may seek to enforce their return.

All detainees arriving at an immigration removal centre are advised of their right to legal representation and how such representation can be obtained within 24 hours of arrival, and they are able to apply for bail as often as they wish.

Advice and support available to detainees held at Yarl's Wood, the main removal centre for women and families, include:

twice-weekly legal advice surgeries funded by the Legal Services Commission;

two full-time welfare officers;

pastoral care provided by the on-site religious team;

an on-site counsellor; and

weekly focus groups where detainees can raise any concerns/issues/topics.

### Borders: Personal Records

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated number of passenger movements *(a)* into and *(b)* from the UK was in each of the last five years; and what percentage of them were subject to (i) an entry and (ii) an exit check. [306313]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* This capability is currently being rolled out through the e-Borders programme. We estimate that e-Borders is currently tracking, in advance of travel, 100 million passengers annually, which is equivalent to 45 to 50 per cent. of all passenger movements into and out of the UK. This figure is pending formal verification by statisticians.

The estimated numbers of passenger movements into and out of the UK by air, sea and Channel Tunnel are compiled by the Department for Transport and are available in their publication Transport Statistics Great Britain: 2009 Edition, which can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/

A copy is available in the House Library.

Over the last five years the total estimated numbers of passenger arrivals and departures by air, sea and Channel Tunnel are as follows:

*Total number of passenger movements*

*Million*

| | *Air* | *Sea* | *Channel Tunnel* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 167.1 | 26.6 | 15.1 | 208.8 |
| 2005 | 178.0 | 24.7 | 15.5 | 218.2 |
| 2006 | 185.4 | 24.5 | 15.5 | 225.4 |
| 2007 | 192.0 | 24.8 | 16.2 | 233.0 |
| 2008 | 189.8 | 24.3 | 16.3 | 230.4 |

*Source:*
Transport Statistics Great Britain: 2009 Edition—Table 2.2b (air), Table 5.11 (sea) and Table 6.8 (Channel Tunnel)

All passengers who seek entry or admission to the UK are subject to entry checks at the Border before being allowed into the UK.

Embarkation checks at the Border are carried out on an intelligence led basis. UKBA does not routinely record the numbers of passengers processed during these operations.

### Closed Circuit Television: Local Government

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department and its agencies has given to local authorities on the use of CCTV cameras fitted with microphones. [311794]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** No guidance has been issued by the Home Office. However, the Information Commissioner has included guidance on the use of CCTV cameras with microphones in his CCTV code of practice.

The code of practice offers guidance to all operators of CCTV cameras to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. In addition, the Information Commissioner's Office provides guidance to any Data Controller in response to specific queries, which could include queries relating to the operation of CCTV cameras.

### Departmental Internet

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on its website in 2009-10. [313559]

**Alan Johnson:** The Home Office website is

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

The amount spent on the main site and Home Office sub-sites is forecast to be £762,000 for the 2009-10 financial year.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 32W, on departmental public expenditure, what forms of advertising the £2,453,007 spent in respect of the immigration points-based system was spent on. [313460]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The introduction of the points based system (PBS) was a fundamental overhaul of our immigration system. In February 2008, the Home Office launched an advertising campaign to raise awareness of this among employers, and make them aware of their new obligations. The campaign consisted of three phases:

Phase one ran from 29 February to 31 March 2008. Advertising ran in national and trade press, on commercial radio and online.

Phase two: 21 July to 21 September 2008. This phase of the campaign included TV, radio, trade press, online and e-newsletter advertising, along with some direct mail (online and trade press continued into November).

Phase three: 19 January to 2 February 2009 consists of trade press advertising and online display advertising (trade and national press sites). There was also an online search optimisation programme that ran throughout January and February.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure his Department has incurred on plans for the containment of the effects of nuclear, biological and chemical agent contamination in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in 2009-10. [313898]

**Mr. Hanson:** We do hold figures specifically on the containment of the effects of contamination. Expenditure on work to respond to and recover from a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorist attack, including containment of the effects of contamination, was: £57.5 million in 2007-08; £56.2 million in 2008-09; and £56.1 million in 2009-10 to date.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [312024]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of media sessions that Ministers of the Home Department have attended over the last three years comes to a total of four.

### DNA: Databases

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many samples not linked to a personal profile there were on the National DNA Database on the latest date for which figures are available. [313455]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** If this question refers to the number of crime scene sample profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) that have not matched to a subject sample profile, then at 31 December 2009, there were 354,132 crime scene sample profiles on the NDNAD which had been submitted by police forces in England and Wales. Of these, 144,522 had not matched with a subject profile.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

### Entry Clearances

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of appeals against visa refusal decisions made by the *(a)* Nairobi and *(b)* Islamabad visa section were allowed in (i) January 2009, (ii) April 2009, (iii) July 2009 and (iv) October 2009. [312088]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is given in the following tables. Immigration statistics for October 2009 will be published on 25 February.

UKBA monitors closely the reasons why appeals were overturned and uses the information to improve decision making quality.

*Nairobi*

| | | | *Allowed appeals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Post* | *Report year* | *Report month* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Nairobi | 2009 | January | 17 | 31 |
| Nairobi | 2009 | April | 42 | 49 |
| Nairobi | 2009 | July | 30 | 28 |

*Islamabad*

| | | | *Allowed appeals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Post* | *Report year* | *Report month* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Islamabad | 2009 | January | 1,375 | 54 |
| Islamabad | 2009 | April | 1,426 | 43 |
| Islamabad | 2009 | July | 1,142 | 46 |

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance to immigration officials relating to admission policy at port of entry for students where the authenticity of the documentation supplied is under question. [311457]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have arranged for the general guidance available to Border Force Officers who encounter passengers presenting suspect passports and travel documentation, to be placed in the Library.

Where a Border Force Officer has concerns regarding the documentation presented by a passenger, they will refer to a specially trained Forgery Officer. If it is established that a document is not genuine, or that the passenger is not entitled to hold it, they will be refused leave to enter.

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether applicants from South Asia for visas to study in the UK received a face-to-face interview prior to the issue of a visa from the beginning of December 2008 to December 2009. [311862]

**Mr. Woolas:** All applicants for a visa must attend a centre to provide fingerprints, photographs and other information. Our key principle is to lock in identity by biometrics. Entry Clearance Officers retain the option of requiring the applicant to attend an interview.

## Entry Clearances: Tourism

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 44-5W, on visas: tourism, what the pilot schemes demonstrated to be the single most important driver to encouraging tourist visa applications. [312867]

**Mr. Woolas:** The pilot schemes identified no single most important driver to encourage tourist visa applications.

## EU Immigration

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between his Department and EU institutions on immigration *(a)* policy and *(b)* operations. [311245]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office is continuously engaged in close and effective cooperation with the EU institutions.

In the last six months the Home Office has successfully negotiated the next five-year EU work programme on Justice and Home Affairs, known as the Stockholm Programme, which reflects many UK priorities in the area of immigration and asylum policy.

We also engage in valuable practical and operational co-operation with EU partners, for example:

access to the Eurodac database, which has allowed the UK to remove over 8,850 asylum seekers to other member states since 2004;

negotiation of Readmission agreements between the EU and third countries to effect returns of illegal immigrants;

joint operations to protect EU borders organised by Frontex, the European Border Agency;

participating in visits to Ghana, Nigeria, Belarus and Kenya to enhance dialogue on migration issues and leading the first successful 'cooperation platform on migration' with Ethiopia to help build its capacity to tackle illegal immigration and human trafficking.

## Graffiti: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce the incidence of graffiti in Coventry in the last 12 months. [313925]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government have provided practitioners in all areas with a wide range of tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour including graffiti. For example we have introduced a ban on the sale of spray paints to under 16's in an attempt to tackle the source of the problem by taking away the means to graffiti. Local agencies can also take action against perpetrators by using a variety of antisocial behaviour interventions such as acceptable behaviour contracts and antisocial behaviour orders that can specifically prohibit individuals from doing certain things such as buying or possessing spray cans and visiting certain areas at certain times. We know that the tools and powers work and many areas are using them effectively to make a difference in local communities.

Coventry Community Safety Partnership has an overarching strategy and action plan to tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the city, which has been developed and is delivered through a range of agencies who are members of a Coventry ASB strategic group. Coventry ASB Team utilises the full range of the tools and powers available to tackle antisocial behaviour. In addition Coventry's ASB action plan include tackling environmental crime, committed for example through fly tipping, graffiti and waste disposal: this is delivered by the enviro crime unit and city services action plans.

## Homicide

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded as homicide committed by a stranger attributable to quarrel, revenge or loss of temper in each year since 1997-98. [313335]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Available information is from the Homicide Index and relates to the number of homicides recorded by police in England and Wales (including British Transport Police where the offence was committed in England or Wales). The latest homicide chapter, published on 21 January 2010 and available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110.pdf

looks at the position as at 24 November 2009. Included within this is a breakdown of currently recorded homicides by relationship of victim to principal suspect and apparent circumstances of offence for the period 1998-99 to 2008-09 (Table 1.06). This is reproduced in the following table, extended to include offences recorded in 1997-98.

*Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2008-09[2]*

*Number*

| | *Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Apparent circumstances[3]* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| *Acquaintance* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper | 255 | 249 | 176 | 220 | 232 | 195 | 213 | 225 | 172 | 211 | 254 | 229 |
| In furtherance of theft or gain | 11 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 15 | 11 | 20 | 14 | 16 | 12 | 16 | 21 |

*Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2008-09[2]*

*Number*

| | *Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Apparent circumstances[3]* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| **Attributed to acts of terrorism[5]** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **While attempting to restrain or arrest individual[6]** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **The result of offences of arson** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| **Other circumstances[7]** | 37 | 32 | 46 | 59 | 59 | 55 | 33 | 53 | 29 | 48 | 54 | 22 |
| **Irrational act[8]** | 30 | 18 | 16 | 12 | 19 | 26 | 23 | 27 | 11 | 15 | 23 | 19 |
| **Not known[9]** | 51 | 85 | 118 | 111 | 85 | 116 | 109 | 107 | 110 | 88 | 82 | 79 |
| **Total** | 385 | 399 | 364 | 411 | 414 | 404 | 405 | 433 | 342 | 380 | 435 | 375 |
| *Stranger[4]* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper** | 73 | 73 | 73 | 90 | 114 | 97 | 105 | 94 | 77 | 108 | 135 | 117 |
| **In furtherance of theft or gain** | 32 | 30 | 28 | 84 | 45 | 37 | 31 | 28 | 24 | 19 | 34 | 24 |
| **Attributed to acts of terrorism[5]** | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **While attempting to restrain or arrest individual[6]** | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| **The result of offences of arson** | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 16 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| **Other circumstances[7]** | 29 | 47 | 50 | 48 | 56 | 232 | 78 | 58 | 51 | 38 | 46 | 39 |
| **Irrational act[8]** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| **Not known[9]** | 82 | 90 | 148 | 126 | 156 | 155 | 142 | 141 | 155 | 155 | 90 | 89 |
| **Total** | 222 | 243 | 308 | 354 | 381 | 539 | 366 | 347 | 369 | 336 | 318 | 276 |
| *All relationships[4]* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper** | 328 | 322 | 249 | 310 | 346 | 292 | 318 | 319 | 249 | 319 | 389 | 346 |
| **In furtherance of theft or gain** | 43 | 44 | 35 | 91 | 60 | 48 | 51 | 42 | 40 | 31 | 50 | 45 |
| **Attributed to acts of terrorism[5]** | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **While attempting to restrain or arrest individual[6]** | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| **The result of offences of arson** | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 23 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 6 |
| **Other circumstances[7]** | 66 | 79 | 96 | 107 | 115 | 287 | 111 | 111 | 80 | 86 | 100 | 61 |
| **Irrational act[8]** | 34 | 21 | 17 | 12 | 23 | 31 | 27 | 36 | 14 | 26 | 28 | 25 |
| **Not known[9]** | 133 | 175 | 266 | 237 | 241 | 271 | 251 | 248 | 265 | 243 | 172 | 168 |

*Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1997-98 to 2008-09[2]*

*Number*

| | *Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Apparent circumstances[3]* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Total | 607 | 642 | 672 | 765 | 795 | 943 | 771 | 780 | 711 | 716 | 753 | 651 |

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide by police. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decisions were made.

[3] In some cases, the circumstances of a homicide could be classified in more than one row in the table and an assessment has been made of the principal circumstances, against which the offence is shown.

[4] Including cases where there is no suspect.

[5] Offences "attributed to acts of terrorism" include all bombings and political assassinations so attributed even where there is no individual suspect and also other homicides where there are strong grounds for believing that the suspects were terrorists. All 52 homicides recorded in 2005-06 relate to the 7 July London bombings.

[6] Homicides "while attempting to restrain or arrest individual" only include cases where a police officer or a person actively assisting a police officer was killed. Cases in which an innocent bystander was killed during an arrest, or where it is thought that a member of the public may have been killed while attempting to apprehend the killer for some offence when no police officer was present, are included in "other circumstances".

[7] It is not possible to show separately offences committed in the course of furtherance of a sexual attack as there is often insufficient information available.

[8] The presented category "irrational act" no longer includes cases where circumstances were considered to be "motiveless".

[9] Includes cases where no rational motive has been identified. Where no suspect has been found it is not always possible to establish the circumstances in which a homicide was committed or the reason for its commission.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of homicide in each year since 1997-98 had previously been convicted of homicide; and what the *(a)* name of the offender, *(b)* date of first offence, *(c)* sentence for first offence, *(d)* release date, *(e)* date of second offence and *(f)* sentence for second offence was in each case. [313336]

**Mr. Straw:** I have been asked to reply.

Much of the requested information is available from the Home Office's Homicide Index, which holds information about all offences initially recorded as homicide by police in England and Wales. Latest available statistics are presented in the Home Offices Statistics Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09", released on 21 January 2010 and which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfsl0/hosb0110.pdf.

The term "homicide" covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Table 1 replicates part of Table 1.11 from this Bulletin. It reflects the position as at 24 November 2009 and shows the numbers of suspects who were convicted of a homicide offence that had been recorded between 1998-99 and 2008-09 and who had previously been convicted of a homicide offence. The data includes all previous homicide convictions (where known) wherever they took place, but the second offence must have occurred in England and Wales to be included in this analysis.

*Table 1: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by year in which second homicide offence was committed, England and Wales[1, 2]*

| *Year in which second homicide offence was recorded* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 1 |
| 1999-2000 | 8 |
| 2000-01 | 1 |
| 2001-02 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 2 |
| 2003-04 | 4 |
| 2004-05 | 4 |
| 2005-06 | 8 |
| 2006-07 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 1 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |
| Total | 31 |

[1] Data are as at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

According to data held on the Homicide Index, two of these offenders received indeterminate sentences for public protection for their second homicide offences, one received an immediate custodial sentence of 14 years, and a fourth received a Restriction Order under the Mental Health Act 1983. The remainder received life sentences.

Table 2 shows, for the offenders covered in Table 1, the year in which their previous homicide offence was recorded.

*Table 2: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by year in which first homicide offence was committed, England and Wales[1, 2]*

| *Year in which first homicide offence was recorded* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 1971 | 1 |
| 1973 | 1 |
| 1975 | 1 |
| 1977 | 1 |
| 1979 | 3 |
| 1982 | 1 |
| 1983 | 1 |
| 1985 | 1 |
| 1986 | 1 |
| 1988 | 1 |
| 1989 | 1 |
| 1991 | 2 |
| 1992 | 1 |
| 1993 | 4 |
| 1996 | 2 |
| 1997 | 2 |
| 1998 | 2 |
| 2000 | 2 |
| 2001 | 2 |

*Table 2: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by year in which first homicide offence was committed, England and Wales[1,2]*

| *Year in which first homicide offence was recorded* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1 |
| Total | 31 |

[1] Data are as at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

One of the offenders shown in Table 2 received a Restriction Order for his first homicide offence. For a further three offenders the custodial sentence lengths are not recorded on the Homicide Index. The custodial sentences given to the remaining offenders are shown in Table 3.

*Table 3: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by length of custodial sentence on previous occasion, England and Wales*

| *Sentence length for first occasion* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| Over 12 months and up to and including 18 months | 2 |
| Over 18 months and up to and including three years | 0 |
| Over three years and less than four years | 1 |
| Four years | 3 |
| Over four years and up to and including five years | 4 |
| Over five years and up to and including 10 years | 4 |
| Over 10 years and less than life | 1 |
| Indeterminate sentence | 0 |
| Life | 12 |

None of the 31 offenders identified on the Homicide Index as having been convicted of homicide between 1998-99 and 2008-09 with a previous homicide conviction, have been released from prison, according to data held by the Ministry of Justice.

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we are unable to release personal information about individual offenders.

## Hotels

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hotel room bookings were made *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* on his Department's behalf in 2009; what the cost was to his Department of such bookings; and what estimate he has made of the cost of agents' fees in connection with such bookings; and if he will make a statement. [312734]

**Alan Johnson:** All hotel bookings by and on behalf of the Home Department, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) are made through our currently contracted agents. The total number of hotel room bookings for 2009 were 40,229.

The cost to the Department, UKBA and CRB of hotel bookings was £3,672,695, equating to an average room rate of £91.

For the period from January to November 2009 (December 2009 information is not yet available), the total fee of the third party agents relating to booking hotel accommodation for Home Office headquarters, CRB and UKBA is estimated as £144,469.

Information on the number of hotel room nights booked by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for 2009 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The total cost of hotel bookings to IPS for 2009 was £1,169,066.47.

IPS does not pay any third party agent booking fees for booking hotel accommodation.

Expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to inform the public about methods of informing authorities about suspected victims of trafficking. [313615]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The UK Human Trafficking Centre's 'Blue Blindfold' campaign has been used to raise awareness of trafficking and to encourage people to report suspicions to Crimestoppers or the police. Campaigns have been held in Westminster, Nottingham, Leeds and Bristol. Information is also available on-line

www.blueblindfold.co.uk

## Human Trafficking: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many potential victims of trafficking under the age of 18 years have been accommodated by local authorities in each year since 1999. [313616]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of potential child trafficking victims accommodated by local authorities in each year since 1999 is not recorded centrally. However since the National Referral Mechanism came into operation on 1 April 2009, and up to 31 December 2009, centrally held data show that 81 potential victims of trafficking under the age of 18 were accommodated by local authorities.

## Independent Safeguarding Authority

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of applications the Independent Safeguarding Authority will process in its first 12 months. [312374]

**Meg Hillier:** For the period July 2010 to 31 March 2011 we currently forecast that approximately 1,100,000 individuals will apply to become ISA-registered through the Criminal Records Bureau. It is forecast that there will be relevant information on approximately 30,000 of these applicants which the ISA will need to consider. It is further estimated that the ISA will receive an additional 21,000 referrals from employers and other regulatory bodies or auto-bar cases that will also require its consideration.

## Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms S. Riaz. [309156]

**Alan Johnson:** On 29 September, my right hon. Friend wrote a letter on behalf of Mr. Frederick Opoku, to which I issued a response on 10 November. His subsequent letter of 9 November on behalf of Mr. Opoku's representative (Ms Riaz) was not responded to as the query was answered in the reply of 10 November.

On 30 November, my right hon. Friend wrote a further letter on behalf of Mr. Opoku, to which I issued a detailed response on 12 January.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham dated 3 November 2009, on behalf of his constituent, Mr Bujar Mehmeti. [312426]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 8 January 2010.

## National Identity Register

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* biometric and *(b)* personal data of individuals stored on the National Identity Register will be removed from the Register if (i) they die and (ii) they decide not to renew their identity card. [312174]

**Meg Hillier:** Information will be retained for as long as is necessary, but only where it is consistent with the statutory purposes set out in the Identity Cards Act 2006. For example, the Identity Cards Act 2006 provides that the date of death may be held on the National Identity Register. This information may be required to help prevent an individual's identity being stolen after death.

## Police: Security

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what normal level of security clearance is required for UK nationals involved in dealing with human resources for police forces. [306346]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Association of Chief Police Officers provides vetting guidelines for the Police Service. Individual police forces are responsible for undertaking police vetting at a suitable level for the role. Levels of security for particular posts are a decision for individual chief police officers.

## Prisoners: Foreigners

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners have been detained under immigration powers in *(a)* immigration removal centres and *(b)* prison for over 12 months. [313211]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2009, for an average month, approximately 550 foreign national prisoners were detained in prison beyond the end of their sentence—so called time-served prisoners. In addition, for an average month, approximately 1,250 foreign national prisoners were detained in a UK Border Agency Removal Centre (IRC) (including Dover, Haslar and Lindholme). Of these two cohorts, for an average month in 2009, approximately a fifth is likely to have been detained for more than a year after the end of their sentence. This detention will have been in a prison, an IRC or a combination of both.

## Protective Clothing

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* nuclear, *(b)* biological and *(c)* chemical agent contamination protective clothing kits were available to civil authorities at the latest date for which figures are available. [313897]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office has provided over 28,000 protective suits to the police services. Fire and ambulance services currently have over 17,000 and 12,000 suits respectively. Each of the emergency responders has different personal protective equipment suits, designed to meet their specific and differing needs.

## Racial Harassment: Preston

**Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures for the prevention of racial harassment his Department has introduced since 1997; and how many times these powers have been used in Preston. [310998]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Since 1997, the Government have introduced the following pieces of legislation to tackle racial harassment: the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001); the Race Relations Act 2000, and the Criminal Justice Act 2003. The figures on the use of the powers relevant to this group of legislation are available at police force area level only. Therefore, the data in the following table provide information on Lancashire police force area and are reflective of the steps that both central and local government are taking to address significant underreporting of hate crime, including racist hate crime.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for selected offences in the Lancashire police force area, 1998 to 2007*[1, 2]

| *Description* | *Statute* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Racially aggravated wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (inflicting bodily injury with or without weapon) | Offences against the Person Act 1861 s.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)(a) and (2) | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for selected offences in the Lancashire police force area, 1998 to 2007*[1, 2]

| *Description* | *Statute* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Racially aggravated actual bodily harm (assaults occasioning ABH) | Offences against the Person Act 1861 s.47 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)(b) and (2) | — | 4 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 20 |
| Racially Aggravated Common Assault | Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)(c) and (3) | 1 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 27 | 43 | 36 | 35 | 68 |
| Racially aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress | Public Order Act 1986 s.4A as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.31(1)(b) and (4) | — | 6 | 13 | 16 | 22 | 20 | 25 | 29 | 74 | 69 |
| Racially Aggravated Offence of Harassment | Protection from Harassment Act 1997 s.2 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.32(1)(a) and (3) | — | — | 3 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 4 |
| Racially Aggravated putting people in fear of violence | Protection from Harassment Act 1997 s.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.32(1)(b) and (4) | — | — | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding or GBH | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)(a) and (2) | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated ABH | Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.47 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)(b) and (2) | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated common assault | Common Law and Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.29(1)(c) and (3) | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 11 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress | Public Order Act 1986 s.4A as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.31(1)(b) and (4) | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 10 |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for selected offences in the Lancashire police force area, 1998 to 2007*[1] [2]

| *Description* | *Statute* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment | Protection from Harassment Act 1997 s.2 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.32(1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence | Protection from Harassment Act 1997 s.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.32(1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Racially aggravated other criminal damage | Criminal Damage Act 1971 s.1(1) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.30(1) and (2) | 1 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 24 | 31 | 21 | 22 | 34 | 25 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage | Criminal Damage Act 1971 s.1(1) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.30(1) and (2) | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Racially aggravated fear or provocation of violence | Public Order Act 1986 s.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.31(1)(a) and (4) | — | 11 | 22 | 39 | 62 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 42 | 45 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated fear or provocation of violence | Public Order Act 1986 s.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.31(1)(a) and (4) | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 2 | 10 | 5 |
| Racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress | Public Order Act 1986 s.5A as added by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.31 (1)(c) and 5 | 4 | 24 | 51 | 80 | 63 | 97 | 100 | 130 | 199 | 175 |
| Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress | Public Order Act 1986 s.4A as added by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.31 (1)(c) and (5) | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 7 | 14 | 23 | 19 |
| Total | | 6 | 55 | 121 | 190 | 211 | 277 | 281 | 329 | 466 | 467 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Serious Organised Crime Agency warranted officers were based in each overseas country on 1 December 2009. [313505]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency has approximately 140 officers based overseas. Their specific locations cannot be disclosed for reasons of operational sensitivity.

SOCA officers are not designated as 'warranted'. They are designated as having the powers of a police officer, an immigration officer or the customs powers of revenue and customs. They do not exercise those powers while based overseas.

### Sex Establishments: Licensing

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether licensed premises which already have permission to undertake lap dancing as an activity in their premises licence will have that right grandfathered once the new regulatory regime for the regulation of lap dancing and other sexual entertainment venues is commenced. [313893]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** On 21 September 2009 the Home Office launched a 12-week consultation on the transitional arrangements for provisions relating to sexual entertainment venues introduced by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009. As part of the consultation the Government proposed that where the provisions are adopted by a local authority all existing lap dancing clubs and similar venues in that area would be required to apply for a sexual entertainment venue licence. Under this proposal existing operators would not be granted 'grandfather rights'.

The consultation closed on 14 December 2009 and the responses are currently being reviewed. A summary of responses and the outcomes of the consultation will be published in February.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been released from custodial sentences handed down for terrorism offences following a successful appeal in each of the five years. [314351]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. However, the Home Office does collate statistics on the number of terrorism arrests, charges and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Departmental Finance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of his Department's capital budget for 2010-11 was brought forward to 2009-10; and how much of this budget he estimates will be spent in 2009-10. [303982]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson** *[holding answer 3 December 2009]:* The Department's capital budget for 2010-11 that was brought forward to 2009-10 was £969 million aggregation in the following table:

*Capital budget 2009-10*

| *Schools:* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Primary Capital | 107 |
| Devolved | 681 |
| Targeted | 151 |
| *Children and Families* | |
| Play capital | 30 |
| Total | 969 |

We continue to encourage local authorities to spend the entirety of these allocations by the end of March 2010.

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activities in 2009-10. [309908]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The predicted budget for the Department's websites (the DCSF corporate website, including the Every Child Matters site, Governornet and Teachernet) in 2009/10 is £506,466.

The other requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312834]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The pay and grading structure consists of six pay bands below the Senior Civil Service. There are four pay bands in the Senior Civil Service including Permanent Secretary with the option to use an additional pay band at Deputy Director level. The number of management layers varies across the Department based on business need and not all of the pay bands are reflected in teams. The latest information on staff numbers by pay band can be found at the Office for National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Information on total pay bill can be found in the latest published DCSF Resource Accounts

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/resource.shtml

The information is not broken down by pay band and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314591]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families conducted its only citizen's jury in 2007 and followed this with 11 related deliberative debates between 29 September 2007 and 13 September 2008 to ensure that the views of parents and young people were reflected in the development and implementation of the Children's Plan.

The Department organised the citizen's jury at Bristol Brunei Academy on 6 September 2007. 38 people participated, including children, young people and teachers from Bristol Brunei Academy; and parents and local practitioners working with children. The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State took part in the event.

### Schools: Health Services

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will require mainstream schools to have a member of staff trained in the administration of emergency medication for pupils with epilepsy; [313889]

(2) if he will take steps to end the practice in mainstream schools of the automatic post-seizure hospitalisation of pupils with epilepsy; [313890]

(3) if he will make it his policy to require mainstream schools to follow the new guidance on managing medicines in schools. [313891]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** We would expect schools to work with parents and their local PCT to arrange training that is appropriate to the needs of the pupils and the staff involved.

We are revising our guidance "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings" on support measures for children with health conditions during their attendance at school. This will include advice on appropriate steps to take following an epileptic seizure, bearing in mind the severity and duration of the seizure, and with reference to the child's individual care plan. As in the current guidance, there is no presumption that all seizures will automatically require hospitalisation.

The Department encourages schools to put in place arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions, such as epilepsy, but does not intend to introduce a new legal duty to do so. The revised guidance aims to offer schools and settings appropriate advice and information to supplement the necessary training and support from other agencies. The guidance will include clear statements of good practice for those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, including schools and primary care trusts.

### Departmental Contracts: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which private companies in the South West his Department has contracts for the provision of goods and services; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* purpose of each such contract is. [314212]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Young Offenders

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 464W, on young offenders, how many people aged between *(a)* 10 and 12, *(b)* 13 and 15 and *(c)* 16 and 17 years-old received their first conviction in each year since 2000-01. [313819]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The number of young people, aged *(a)* and *(b)* 10 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17, receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction who have been convicted and received immediate custodial sentence, processed by English or Welsh Police forces, (and percentage of year total) can be found in the following table:

*Number of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction who have been convicted and received immediate custodial sentence, processed by English or Welsh Police forces, (and percentage of year total)*

| *Age at time of offence* | *2000-01* | | *2001-02* | | *2002-03* | | *2003-04* | | *2004-05* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| 10-15 | 99 | 23.1 | 120 | 29.1 | 108 | 23.6 | 96 | 24.7 | 101 | 24.6 |
| 16-17 | 330 | 76.9 | 293 | 70.9 | 349 | 76.4 | 293 | 75.3 | 309 | 75.4 |
| Total | 429 | 100 | 413 | 100 | 457 | 100 | 389 | 100 | 410 | 100 |

| *Age at time of offence* | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| 10-15 | 73 | 18.6 | 74 | 19.8 | 78 | 19.7 | 102 | 27.1 |
| 16-17 | 320 | 81.4 | 300 | 80.2 | 318 | 80.3 | 275 | 72.9 |
| Total | 393 | 100 | 374 | 100 | 100 | 396 | 377 | 100 |

Young people aged 10-12 could not be included separately in the above table due to the very small numbers in this group. Any young person who has have previously received a reprimand, warning or conviction and who then went on to receive an immediate custodial sentence will not be included in the figures in the table—since DCSF do not hold that data. An equivalent breakdown by age bands is not available for offenders living in England only, due to the method used to allocate records where insufficient address data are available.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Religious Practice: Recordings

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what assessment the Church Commissioners have made of the effect of the Government's proposed changes to exemptions from public performance rights in sound recordings and performers' rights on *(a)* religious worship and *(b)* church halls. [314849]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** My understanding is that there is no proposal to end the current exemption from the requirement to obtain a music licence for music used in 'divine service'. I have not assessed the possible impact of charges being introduced for church halls but Christian Copyright Licensing International, which handles copyright on behalf of churches, will in due course provide updates on the Government's proposed changes (which have yet to be debated by Parliament) and their potential effect on churches.

I would urge the Government to avoid adverse effects on churches given their vital contribution to the wellbeing of our communities and our nation.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services: Afghanistan

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Dubai concerning large deposits or money transfers from Afghan nationals; and if he will make a statement. [313782]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** There have not been any recent ministerial discussions related to particular deposits or transfers involving Afghan nationals.

However HMG holds regular discussions with the Emirati authorities on various issues related to the integrity of the financial system, including issues of financial crime. The UK encourages all jurisdictions to work towards full compliance with the international standards on anti-money laundering and countering the finance of terrorism set by the Financial Action Task Force.

### Coinage: Forgery

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department provides to the public on identification of *(a)* counterfeit coins and *(b)* new coinage brought into circulation. [314421]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Royal Mint is responsible for the manufacture of UK coinage. 'A guide for identifying genuine coins' and information on 'UK decimal coins issued into general circulation up to 2008' are available on the Royal Mint's website:

www.royalmint.com

as is the 2008-09 Annual Report which contains data on the 'Issues of circulating coins 2008-09' and the 'Estimated Value and number of coins in circulation March 2009'.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314595]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the former Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

### Employee Benefit Trusts

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1007W, on employee benefit trusts, for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs does not keep a record of the number of loans taken from employee benefit trusts. [314689]

**Mr. Timms:** There is no legal requirement for the trustees of an Employee Benefit Trust to notify HM Revenue and Customs of loans made to beneficiaries.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 779W, on tax avoidance, for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs does not record the amounts contributed to employee benefit trusts. [314690]

**Mr. Timms:** There is no legal requirement for companies or trustees to notify HM Revenue and Customs of amounts contributed to an employee benefit trust.

### EU Budget

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the UK's net contribution to the European Union in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [314597]

**Ian Pearson:** The latest projections for the UK's net contribution to the EU budget for the stated years can be found in footnote 3 of Table B15 of the pre-Budget report.

### EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what taxation issues were *(a)* on the agenda and *(b)* discussed at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 19 January 2010; and what position the Government took on each such issue. [313906]

**Mr. Timms:** The ECOFIN agenda and discussion covered a number of proposals concerned with improving exchange of information and mutual assistance in tax matters. These comprised amendments to the savings directive, new directives on administrative cooperation and the recovery of tax debts, and proposals for anti-fraud and tax cooperation agreements with Liechtenstein, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino and Switzerland.

The Government broadly support the proposed package, which reflects the G20 priority to tackle cross-border tax evasion established at the London Summit in April 2009. ECOFIN reached agreement on the recovery directive and will continue its discussions on the rest of the package at a subsequent meeting.

### HM Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many forms HM Revenue and Customs generated about changes of jobs in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [312153]

(2) what percentage of those who paid tax through the Pay-As-You-Earn system had more than one income source in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [312321]

(3) what percentage of employers did not operate changed tax codes for their employees in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [312336]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

### Income Tax

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to be affected by the new 50 per cent. tax band. [314046]

**Mr. Timms:** Budget 2009 announced that an additional rate of income tax of 50 per cent. would apply to total income in excess of £150,000 from April 2010, with a rate of 42.5 per cent. for dividend income.

Around 260,000 individuals are projected to have taxable income above £150,000 in 2010-11.

Figures are based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes and projected in line with pre-Budget 2009 assumptions. The projection excludes any estimate of behavioural response.

### Income Tax: Rebates

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of the Taxback programme operated by HM Revenue and Customs; and how many pensioners have claimed back overpaid tax on savings income to date. [313263]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 196W, to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb).

### Insolvency

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Department's forecasts of future economic growth, what account is taken of the increase in business insolvencies which has followed past recessions. [314500]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury's forecast of economic growth takes into account a broad range of factors that are important for the outlook of the corporate sector including the rate of company liquidations. Box A4 in the 2009 pre-Budget report makes reference to the rate of company liquidations.

### Monetary Policy

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the unrealised loss has been to the Exchequer of the indemnity which has been given to the Bank of England Asset Purchase Facility Fund to cover its losses. [313858]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Bank of England will publish accounts for the Asset Purchase Facility (APF) alongside their annual accounts for the year ending February 2010. HM Treasury will include the implications of the APF for Treasury resources, that is the profit or loss of the APF based on valuations of APF assets at balance sheet date, in its annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010 Any profit or loss on the APF will only crystallise once the fund is wound up.

### Part-time Employment

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance he provides through the taxation and tax credits system to people with part-time jobs of less than 16 hours per week; and how many people worked for less than 16 hours per week in each of the last three years. [313757]

**Mr. Timms:** People working part-time benefit from the personal allowance, which means they can earn up to £6,475 a year without being liable for income tax. As a result, someone working 16 hours a week on a wage of up to £7.80 an hour, well above the national minimum wage, will pay no income tax at all. Families with children, regardless of whether or not the parents work, can also benefit from child tax credit and child benefit.

Working tax credit is designed to create incentives for people to enter into and progress in work. It is only available to people working 16 hours a week or more, as working for less than 16 hours a week is less likely to create a strong attachment to the labour market and lead to sustainable employment.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), published by the Office for National Statistics, and available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE-2009/tab1_9a.xls

shows that nine out of 10 employees in the UK work for more than 16 hours a week.

## PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Pay-As-You-Earn coding notices were issued to *(a)* employers and *(b)* individuals in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [312156]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

### Revenue and Customs

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff the HM Revenue and Customs Large Business Service had in each year since 2006; how many cases it dealt with in each of those years; and what the taxation yield of the service was in each of those years. [313761]

**Mr. Timms:** The requested information is provided in the following table.

| | *2005-6* | *2006-7* | *2007-8* | *2008-9* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff in HMRC's Large Business Services (LBS) | 1,826 | 1,60 | 1,704 | 1,524 |
| Cases with the LBS at 31 March | n/a | 2510 | 777 | 771 |
| Yield (£ million) | 3,580.5 | 3,932.6 | 4,963.8 | 4,903.5 |

n/a = Not available

### Tax Allowances

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual taxpayers claimed benefits-in-kind or paid business expenses in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; and what total amount was claimed in each year. [313966]

**Mr. Timms:** This information requested is not available by calendar year. However, information about taxable expenses and benefits-in-kind for 2006-07 and a projection for 2007-08 is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/taxable_benefits/table4-5-2006-Q7.pdf

This information will be updated on 31 March 2010 and will include a projection for the 2008-09 tax year.

### Tax Avoidance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disclosures have been made under the onshore account disclosure facility since the Finance Act 2009 came into force. [313903]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not recognise the term "Onshore Disclosure Facility".

In April 2007, HMRC launched the Offshore Disclosure Facility, enabling investors with offshore accounts to disclose tax due on income and gains not previously included in their returns. Around 45,000 individuals disclosed by the 26 November 2007 deadline. The facility recovered over £400 million in unpaid revenue. HMRC is pursuing those with offshore accounts who did not come forward under the arrangements, and has so far recovered a further £50 million.

In September 2009, HMRC launched a new disclosure opportunity (NDO). This is a second and final disclosure opportunity. By the notification deadline of 4 January 2010, 10,000 people registered to use the NDO. Registered individuals now have until 12 March to complete their disclosures and pay what they owe.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* staff has been incurred in respect of HM Revenue and Custom's New Disclosure Opportunity; and how many disclosures have been made under this facility to date. [313904]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) total media spend for the New Disclosure Opportunity (NDO), excluding VAT and fees, was £542,298.52.

HMRC estimate that staff time equivalent to a cost of £393,000 has been spent in 2009-10 on call handling, disclosure processing and project management of work under the NDO. HMRC undertook this work as part of their normal business activity.

By the notification deadline of 4 January 2010, 10,000 people registered to use the NDO. Registered individuals now have until 12 March to complete their disclosures and pay what they owe.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors he took into account in reaching his decision not to incorporate a general anti-avoidance principle in taxation law. [313908]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government keep all taxes under review, including the possibility of introducing a general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR).

Following an extensive consultation on the possibility of a GAAR in 1998, the Government made the decision not to introduce a GAAR at that time in the light of responses received.

The factors considered include how a GAAR would work in conjunction with existing extensive anti-avoidance provisions; how it would affect new avoidance legislation going forward; and, whether, as in some countries with a GAAR, a special clearance system would be required.

### Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate has been made of the proportion of UK taxpayers with income from furnished holiday lettings in the UK who reside in the South West; [309687]

(2) how many UK taxpayers obtained furnished holiday letting revenue from properties in the European Economic Area in 2008-09. [309688]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) administrative systems do not record the location of properties let under furnished holiday lettings rules and whether they are situated in the UK or the European Economic area. It is estimated that 20 per cent. of UK taxpayers with income from furnished holiday lettings (in the UK or the European Economic Area) have a correspondence address in the South West.

## Taxation: Self-assessment

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals have been switched out of self-assessment in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [312155]

(2) what criteria are used to determine whether a self-assessment case requires manual processing;. [312332]

(3) what percentage of self-assessment forms were *(a)* incomplete and *(b)* completed incorrectly in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312335]

(4) what the five most common errors made by individuals completing self-assessment forms were in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [312406]

**Mr. Timms:** Following a review of self-assessment in April 2004 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) introduced revised criteria for completion of self-assessment tax returns. As a result, many customers with straightforward tax affairs were no longer required to complete an annual tax return. The number of individuals who have automatically been taken out of self-assessment is provided in the following table.

| | *Number of individuals taken out of self-assessment* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 285,584 |
| 2006-07 | 214,667 |
| 2007-08 | 190,453 |
| 2008-09 | 196,017 |

Manual processing is required where a self-assessment main tax return is filed on paper. Returns filed electronically do not require manual processing and short tax returns filed on paper are subject to automated data capture.

A self-assessment tax return can be regarded as incomplete for a number of reasons, for example: no signature or missing supplementary pages. HMRC will send these back to the taxpayer for completion. HMRC will correct obvious errors made by the taxpayer; for example:

Where the taxpayer transposes figures;

Puts a decimal point in the wrong place;

Makes arithmetical errors; or

Incorrectly records national insurance benefits.

Information on the number of incomplete or incorrect returns is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally held by HMRC's systems.

Based on the sampling undertaken as part of the Department's monthly quality monitoring exercise, the five most common errors made by individuals completing self-assessment forms were:

In 2005-06 failing to:

1. declare the correct amount of national insurance benefits on the return;
2. complete all the relevant boxes on the trust page;
3. include the amount of underpayment from an earlier year included in the PAYE code for a later year;
4. claim fixed rate expenses; and
5. include details of in-year repayments already received.

In 2006-07 failing to:

1. declare the correct amount of national insurance benefits on the return;
2. complete all the relevant boxes on the trust page;
3. include the amount of underpayment from an earlier year included in the PAYE code for a later year;
4. correctly complete boxes on the return; and
5. include details of in year repayments already received.

In 2007/08 failing to:

1. declare the correct amount of national insurance benefits on the return;
2. include the amount of underpayment from an earlier year included in the PAYE code for the return year;
3. claim fixed rate expenses;
4. include details of in year repayments already received; and
5. include the amount of underpayment from an earlier year included in the PAYE code for a later year.

In 2008-09 failing to:

1. declare the correct amount of national insurance benefits on the return;
2. include the amount of underpayment from an earlier year included in the PAYE code for the return year;
3. include the amount of underpayment from an earlier year included in the PAYE code for a later year;
4. claim fixed rate expenses; and
5. complete the tax paid on pension income on the SA return.

## Taxation: Self-assessment and PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people paying tax through *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* pay-as-you-earn were (i) overcharged and (ii) undercharged in (A) 2006, (B) 2007, (C) 2008 and (D) 2009; and what the difference was between the amount charged and the amount owed in each case in each such year; [312328]

(2) how many people were affected by errors in the *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* pay-as-you-earn system in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312329]

(3) how many *(a)* pay-as-you-earn and *(b)* self-assessment cases there were in which the tax remitted did not match the end-of-year information in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312330]

(4) how many coding errors there were in respect of the *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* pay-as-you-earn system in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [312407]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally captured by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the self-assessment forms filed in *(a)* September and *(b)* January were processed manually in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [313941]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of processing self-assessment forms filed in *(a)* September and *(b)* January; [313942]

(3) how many self-assessment forms were filed in respect of the *(a)* September and *(b)* January deadline in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [313974]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not hold data for the number of self-assessment tax returns processed manually by whether they were received in September or January. The total number of self-assessment returns processed manually is provided in the following table.

| *Tax return year* | *Self-assessment (individuals)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4,988,969 |
| 2006-07 | 4,118,006 |
| 2007-08 | 2,314,728 |
| 2008-09 | Not yet available |

No such estimate has been made.

In 2008 the self-assessments filing dates were changed, from 30 September and 31 January, to 31 October for paper returns and 31 January for online returns. The information requested is provided in the following table.

|  | *Tax return* |
|---|---|
| *2006-07* |  |
| Filed by 30 September 2007 | 3,382,668 |
| Total filed by 31 January 2008 | 8,250,952 |
| *2007-08* |  |
| Filed by paper 31 October 2008 | 2,616,666 |
| Total filed by 31 January 2009 | 8,390,178 |

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department makes available to PAYE taxpayers on their annual tax calculation; [313958]

(2) how many P46 codes were used in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [313965]

(3) how many *(a)* PAYE and *(b)* self-assessment taxpayers challenged or appealed the amount they were charged for income tax in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [313967]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs do not issue annual tax calculations to pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) taxpayers. PAYE customers who also meet the self-assessment (SA) criteria are required to complete an annual SA tax return. Further information on income tax self-assessment can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/sa/index.htm

The information requested is not available, as HMRC's systems do not record when employers operate tax codes based on the completion of a P46 form, or all the instances when a taxpayer may query the amount of tax they pay.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax code changes for benefits in kind are processed automatically following the receipt of P11Ds; [313959]

(2) how many P11Ds were processed *(a)* manually and *(b)* automatically in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [313961]

(3) what the average cost of processing a P11D *(a)* automatically and *(b)* manually was in the latest period for which figures are available; [313962]

(4) what the volume is of the backlog of P11Ds waiting to be manually processed; [313963]

(5) what the average income was of taxpayers who were *(a)* overcharged and *(b)* undercharged income tax in the latest year for which figures are available. [313969]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is provided in the following table.

|  | *P11Ds* |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Total received | n/a | 4,602,860 | 4,562,914 | 3,944,894 |
| *Processed:* |  |  |  |  |
| Manually | n/a | 4,028,207 | 3,661,908 | 2,627,746 |
| Automatically | 383,898 | 574,653 | 901,006 | 1,317,148 |
| Automatically coded[1] | n/a | n/a | 1,786,351 | n/a |

[1] Figures for the numbers of P11Ds automatically coded were only produced for 2007-08 to test HMRC's system.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research has been commissioned or undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs since 2001-02 on *(a)* the number of self assessment taxpayers who under declare liability and *(b)* the levels of tax revenues which go undeclared; and if he will make a statement. [313964]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2009' alongside the 2009 Pre-Budget Report, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

The report sets out:

an estimate of the proportion of those receiving an Income Tax Self Assessment tax return (individuals, partnerships and trusts) who had understated their tax liability for each year from 1999-20000 to 2004-05 and the levels of under declaration; and

an estimate of the proportion of small and medium-sized companies receiving a Corporation Tax Self Assessment return who had understated their tax liability for the financial years 2001-04, and the levels of under declaration.

At the end of 2008-09 18,211 P11Ds were outstanding, which HM Revenue and Customs have been unable to match to an individual record.

The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally captured by HM Revenue and Customs systems

## VAT

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value added tax rate applies to items purchased before 1 January 2010 and delivered after 1 January 2010. [309029]

**Mr. Timms:** Items subject to the standard rate of VAT which were paid for before 1 January 2010 and delivered on or after that date will normally be liable to VAT at 15 per cent. However, anti-forestalling legislation was in place to prevent artificial avoidance of the rate reversion.

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy between 1 January and 31 March 2010 of the return of the level of value added tax to 17.5 per cent. [314420]

**Mr. Timms:** The annual rate of consumer price inflation is expected to rise in January, partly due to the pre-announced reversal of the cut in the VAT rate from 15 per cent. back to 17.5 per cent.

The 2009 pre-Budget report forecast assumes that businesses will smooth the pass-through of the reversal of the VAT rate cut, with inflation peaking in early 2010. It is assumed that households will bring forward some consumption from 2010 to 2009 as a result of the lower relative prices associated with the reversion of the temporary cut in the standard rate of VAT.

Consumer spending is forecast to grow over 2010 as a whole. The Government will set out their latest assessment of economic prospects in the Budget as usual.

### VAT: Channel Islands

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the value added tax revenue lost as a result of the routeing of purchases of goods through the Channel Islands in the last 12 months; and what steps he has taken to prevent such losses. [313902]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs do not have the information to identify whether goods routed through the Channel Islands were originally produced there.

The Government have agreed with the Channel Islands' authorities that they will restrict the operations of businesses that establish there solely to supply goods to the UK and apply restrictions on the setting up of new businesses. The islands' authorities have also agreed to cap the annual sales of goods to the UK of some large businesses established there. The Government are keeping the operation of these arrangements under review.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Ashford Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Ashford constituency are in households in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit. [313510]

**Mr. Timms:** Child and working tax credits were introduced in April 2003 when they replaced working families' tax credits.

The latest information on the number of children in households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-dec09.pdf

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of families in each ward of Ashford constituency in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit. [313513]

**Mr. Timms:** The following table shows for each ward within Ashford constituency snapshot estimates for the number of households benefiting from tax credits as at 1 December 2009.

Separate information on the number of households receiving working tax credits and child tax credits in each ward is not available due to the small sample sizes available.

However, estimates of the number of families benefiting, by award type, for each local authority and parliamentary constituency are provided in the HM Revenue and Customs snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis. December 2009', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-dec09.pdf

| *Ward* | *Number of households in receipt of tax credits*[1] |
|---|---:|
| Aylesford Green | 400 |
| Beaver | 700 |
| Biddenden | 200 |
| Bockhanger | 300 |
| Boughton Aluph and Eastwell | 400 |
| Bybrook | 200 |
| Charing | — |
| Downs North | — |
| Downs West | 200 |
| Godinton | 600 |
| Great Chart with Singleton North | 400 |
| Highfield | 300 |
| Isle of Oxney | 200 |
| Kennington | 200 |
| Little Burton Farm | 300 |
| Norman | 900 |
| North Willesborough | 500 |
| Park Farm North | 400 |
| Park Farm South | 400 |
| Rolvenden and Tenterden West | 200 |
| St Michaels | 200 |
| Saxon Shore | 400 |
| Singleton South | 300 |
| South Willesborough | 500 |
| Stanhope | 500 |
| Stour | 600 |
| Tenterden North | 200 |
| Tenterden South | — |
| Victoria | 700 |
| Washford | 400 |
| Weald Central | 300 |
| Weald East | — |
| Weald North | 200 |
| Weald South | 400 |
| Wye | — |

[1] Due to small sample sizes, the figures for some wards are not shown

### Working Tax Credit

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of changing the threshold for eligibility of the working tax credit to *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 20 and *(d)* 25 hours a week. [313570]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* No such estimate has been made.

## JUSTICE

### David Kelly Death Inquiry

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who determined that the medical reports and photographs connected to the death of Dr. David Kelly should be closed for 70 years; and on what legal basis this determination was made. [313785]

**Mr. Wills:** No determination has been made that the medical reports and photographs connected to the death of Dr. David Kelly should be closed for 70 years. Rather, Lord Hutton noted in his statement on 26 January that he had requested that the post mortem examination report relating to Dr. Kelly not be disclosed for 70 years in view of the distress that could be caused to Dr. Kelly's wife and daughters.

The Ministry of Justice is now considering the most appropriate course of action. The options available will need to be considered carefully.

### Debt Collection: Regulation

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to establish an independent regulator of bailiffs. [313888]

**Bridget Prentice:** I announced on 17 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 46WS that the Government will produce a consultation paper which will set out its intentions for a package of measures which will address concerns that have been raised about the behaviour of bailiffs and proposals for the regulation of the bailiff industry.

It remains the Government's intention to commence this consultation exercise with a view to implementing the changes in April 2012.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312542]

**Mr. Wills:** The information requested is as follows:

*New furnishings*

The expenditure on furniture and fittings by the Ministry is:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 8,158 |
| 2007-08 | 6,057 |

These figures represent expenditure on both furniture and fittings by the Ministry of Justice headquarters, HM Court Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). For NOMS, the totals exclude expenditure on items costing less than £5,000 as they are recorded within a more general category of expenditure and can be separately identified only at disproportionate cost by scrutinising numerous individual invoices held locally.

Of the amounts above, £3,983,000 in 2008-09 and £2,015,000 in 2007-08 were capitalised on the departmental balance sheet and are disclosed as additions to furniture and fittings in note 14 of the departmental resource accounts available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk

Furniture is typically used for a period of 20 years within the Department. Major acquisitions usually occur only where a new building is taken on following the expiry of building leases and in accordance with the Ministry's estates rationalisation programme which is a key element of its savings plans.

*Works of art*

Art is a recognised part of public buildings and the commissioning or purchase of suitable artworks is included in the overall cost of building or refurbishment. For new buildings, such as courts, artwork is normally integrated into the fabric of the building and does not have a separately identifiable cost. The only distinct expenditure on artwork incurred in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and relates to installations within the Ministry of Justice's newly refurbished headquarters building at 102 Petty France. This work was commissioned in 2001 at an estimated cost of £470,000 which was later revised down to £290,000. The final actual cost on completion of the works was £208,000.

*Vehicles*

The amount spent on new vehicles by the Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies is:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 7,600 |
| 2007-08 | 3,215 |

Expenditure represents vehicles bought outright by the Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies or held on finance leases. The figures above exclude vehicles rented under operating lease arrangements. They also exclude vehicles used by NOMS for escorting prisoners. NOMS has contracted with various suppliers to provide a prisoner escorting service. Within the terms of those contracts, it is for the suppliers to determine the vehicles necessary to deliver the contracted service.

Vehicles owned by the Ministry are typically used within the business for between three and seven years, depending on vehicle type and use. They are often bought and replaced in bulk to achieve discounts, resulting in differences in expenditure from year to year. The main reason for the increase in expenditure in 2008-09 is the acquisition by HM Courts Service of a substantial fleet of secure cell vehicles to enable the safe and secure transportation by civilian enforcement officers and county court bailiffs of defendants under arrest to court.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the oral answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 11-12, on compulsory transfer agreements, (1) with which countries negotiations to establish arrangements for prisoner transfers without consent are continuing; and how many foreign national prisoners there are from each such country; [312635]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners have been returned to each of the 35 countries with which the UK has arrangements for prisoner transfers without consent since the inception of such arrangements; [312636]

(3) how many foreign national prisoners there are from each of the 35 countries with which the UK has arrangements for prisoner transfers without consent. [312637]

**Maria Eagle:** The United Kingdom is in negotiation with Nigeria and Rwanda with a view to signing compulsory prisoner transfer agreements (PTA). As at 18 December 2009, 752 Nigerians and 11 Rwandans where detained in prisons in England and Wales.

The United Kingdom brought into force the additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons on 1 November 2009. Under the additional protocol the United Kingdom can transfer prisoners without their consent to 34 signatory countries providing the prisoner is subject to a deportation order. The consent of the receiving state is required in each case. To date no prisoners have been transferred under these arrangements.

On 17 November 2008 the United Kingdom and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya signed a PTA which provides for transfer without the consent of the prisoner concerned. To date no prisoners have been transferred under these arrangements.

The following table lists the countries with which the United Kingdom has compulsory PTA and the number of recorded foreign nationals in prison custody in England and Wales. It should be noted that where there is no direct evidence of nationality this is recorded as self declared by the prisoner;

| *Countries with which the United Kingdom has a compulsory prisoner transfer arrangement* | *Foreign nationals recorded in prison on 18 December 2009* |
|---|---|
| Austria | 14 |
| Belgium | 35 |
| Bulgaria | 64 |
| Croatia | 7 |
| Cyprus | 35 |
| Czech Republic | 85 |
| Denmark | 13 |
| Estonia | 25 |
| Finland | 4 |
| France | 163 |
| Georgia | 11 |
| Germany | 91 |
| Greece | 17 |
| Hungary | 36 |
| Iceland | 3 |
| Ireland | 647 |
| Latvia | 137 |
| Libya | 20 |
| Liechtenstein | — |
| Lithuania | 330 |
| Luxembourg | — |
| Malta | 2 |
| Moldova | 19 |
| Montenegro | [1]— |
| Netherlands | 119 |
| Norway | 5 |
| Poland | 617 |
| Romania | 357 |
| Russian Federation | 120 |
| San Marino | 1 |
| Serbia | 62 |
| Sweden | 17 |
| Switzerland | 7 |
| Macedonia | 6 |
| Ukraine | [2]— |

[1] Serbian and Montenegrin nationals are listed under Serbian and Montenegro for the purposes of nationality in prison.

[2] Under NOMS statistics Ukrainian nationals are listed as nationals of the Russian Federation.

## Offenders: Social Services

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners aged between 18 and 21 were referred to adult social services under section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 by the *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* Probation Service in the last 12 months. [313800]

**Maria Eagle:** Section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 sets out local authorities' obligations in relation to assessments of needs for community care services.

Information on the numbers of referrals to adult social services by the Prison Service and the national probation service is not held centrally. Since 2006, NHS primary care trusts have held responsibility for commissioning health services for their offender population.

## Police Cautions: North East

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* police cautions and *(b)* conditional cautions were issued for each category of offence in each police force area in the North East region in each year since 2005. [313896]

**Claire Ward:** The number of offenders receiving a caution in the north-east Government office region (GOR) by force and offence group, 2005-08 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Currently, data on simple or conditional cautions are not published separately although the Crown Prosecution Service is planning to publish conditional cautioning data on a monthly basis from February 2010.

*Number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] in the north-east Government office region (GOR), by force, by offence group, 2005-08[3]*

| *Force/offence group* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Durham* | | | | |
| Violence against the person | 284 | 423 | 445 | 360 |
| Sexual offences | 18 | 16 | 15 | 20 |
| Burglary | 71 | 103 | 97 | 67 |
| Robbery | 1 | 5 | 2 | — |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 626 | 727 | 713 | 677 |
| Fraud and forgery | 38 | 58 | 54 | 75 |
| Criminal damage | 15 | 44 | 80 | 108 |
| Drug offences | 302 | 295 | 298 | 359 |

*Number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] in the north-east Government office region (GOR), by force, by offence group, 2005-08[3]*

| *Force/offence group* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other indictable offences | 43 | 81 | 76 | 81 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 1,739 | 2,578 | 2,245 | 2,046 |
| Total | 3,137 | 4,330 | 4,025 | 3,793 |
| | | | | |
| *Northumbria* | | | | |
| Violence against the person | 1,561 | 1,754 | 1,460 | 1,328 |
| Sexual offences | 79 | 81 | 81 | 65 |
| Burglary | 164 | 228 | 214 | 186 |
| Robbery | 1 | 3 | — | 2 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 3,210 | 3,444 | 3,687 | 3,316 |
| Fraud and forgery | 377 | 507 | 494 | 499 |
| Criminal damage | 91 | 125 | 102 | 123 |
| Drug offences | 2,014 | 1,772 | 1,583 | 1,347 |
| Other indictable offences | 343 | 428 | 406 | 430 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 8,788 | 8,047 | 7,870 | 7,343 |
| Total | 16,628 | 16,389 | 15,897 | 14,639 |
| | | | | |
| *Cleveland* | | | | |
| Violence against the person | 388 | 488 | 491 | 398 |
| Sexual offences | 19 | 29 | 19 | 24 |
| Burglary | 105 | 168 | 148 | 129 |
| Robbery | 3 | 11 | 4 | 6 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 832 | 1,129 | 1,070 | 1,212 |
| Fraud and forgery | 83 | 107 | 110 | 115 |
| Criminal damage | 26 | 41 | 30 | 27 |
| Drug offences | 344 | 446 | 589 | 747 |
| Other indictable offences | 80 | 93 | 84 | 111 |
| Summary offences (excluding motoring) | 1,737 | 3,160 | 2,852 | 2,835 |
| Total | 3,617 | 5,672 | 5,397 | 5,604 |

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Prison Sentences

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners have been held under an indeterminate sentence for public protection in each year since their inception. [313786]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table gives figures for the numbers of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales serving indeterminate sentences for public protection in each year since 2005 when they first came into effect:

*Prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection 2005-09[1] in England and Wales as at 30 June each year*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 24 | 1,079 | 2,859 | 4,461 | 5,205 |
| Males | 24 | 1,045 | 2,776 | 4,333 | 5,074 |
| Females | 0 | 34 | 83 | 128 | 131 |

[1] 2009 figures are estimated
*Note:*
Indeterminate sentences for public protection came into effect on 5 April 2005

These figures up to June 2008 can be found in the published Offender Management Caseload Statistics, table 7.17, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prison Service: Contractors

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what private contractors his Department employs to run work in prison schemes. [313862]

**Maria Eagle:** There are a number of employer partnerships with private sector companies that provide employment and training activities within prisons with some offering employment on release. Some of these operate at an individual prison level and unless they wish to expand their work to other prisons details would not necessarily be kept centrally. Those private sector organisations involved in work for prisoners include Cisco Systems, DHL, Timpson's, Travis Perkins, Trackworks, Pertemps People Group, A4e Ltd., SERCO, and Speedy Hire.

In addition, a number of registered charities and public bodies help to provide education and training in prisons and many others provide work for prisoners in the form of contract services. There are also a number of companies that provide paid employment for selected low risk prisoners in the community. There is also a Corporate alliance network of over 100 employers committed to supporting the offender employment agenda in training and recruiting (ex) offenders.

The Learning and Skills Council has let contracts to A4e Ltd., CfBT, JHP Group, Kensington and Chelsea college, Lincoln college, the Manchester college, Milton Keynes college, Norton Radstock college, Prospects, Strode college, Tribal and Working Links to deliver education, skills training and careers information and advice services in public sector prisons and young offender institutions across England.

## Prison Service: Recruitment

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has set targets for the recruitment of prison officers in the next five years. [313774]

**Maria Eagle:** There are no centrally directed targets for prison officer recruitment. The National Offender Management Service recruits to officer vacancies as and when they are required. The level of staffing is approved locally by each regional manager for custodial services based on the level of activity required and an operational assessment of overall safety.

### Prison Service: Television

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many televisions were purchased by HM Prison Service in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [313196]

**Maria Eagle:** Available data for the units of televisions purchased by the HM Prison Service are limited for the years 2007-08 with more comprehensive data available for the years 2008-09, due to increased availability of supplier management information. The following information is available and has been drilled down into two separate categories:

(a) In-cell televisions

(b) Other televisions purchased for group.

*In-cell televisions*

In-cell televisions are purchased as replenishments for the prisoner rental scheme, as part of local incentives and earned privileges schemes, where prisoners can rent televisions for £1 per week from their own personal funds. In-cell televisions are also an earned privilege that can be lost due to poor behaviour.

*Other televisions*

Other televisions are defined as units, which have been purchased for various reasons—for example establishment information systems, training rooms, communal areas and visitor areas.

The following data have been provided by the current contracted supplier of domestic appliances and electrical products, DSGI Business Equanet, part of the Dixons Group.

*2007-08*

| *Category* | *Amount* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|
| In-cell televisions | 14,814 | — |
| Other televisions | 24 | Limited data due to ad hoc supply and under previous contracts of various non-contracted suppliers, where detailed unit information is not available |

*2008-09*

| *Category* | *Amount* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|
| In-cell televisions | 12,238 | — |
| Other televisions | 821 | — |

### Prisoners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are on each level of incentives and privileges. [313366]

**Mr. Straw:** The latest available data for the three levels of the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme (IEPS) is set out in the following table. The data are drawn from different systems and also represents an average so figures do not precisely match population figures on any one day. However, they do provide an indication at national level of the operation of IEPS. The figures are for the average numbers on each level of the scheme over a period of eight months for April to November 2009.

| *Level* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Basic | 1,228 | 1.51 |
| Standard | 46,317 | 56.89 |
| Enhanced | 33,870 | 41.60 |

### Prisoners Release: Homicide

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any persons convicted of homicide since 1997-98 having previously been convicted of homicide have been released from their sentence for the second offence. [313365]

**Mr. Straw:** Much of the requested information is available from the Home Office's Homicide Index, which holds information about all offences initially recorded as homicide by police in England and Wales. Latest available statistics are presented in the Home Offices Statistics Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09", released on 21 January 2010 and which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfsl0/hosb0110.pdf.

The term "homicide" covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Table 1 replicates part of Table 1.11 from this Bulletin. It reflects the position as at 24 November 2009 and shows the numbers of suspects who were convicted of a homicide offence that had been recorded between 1998-99 and 2008-09 and who had previously been convicted of a homicide offence. The data include all previous homicide convictions (where known) wherever they took place, but the second offence must have occurred in England and Wales to be included in this analysis.

*Table 1: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by year in which second homicide offence was committed, England and Wales*[1,2]

| *Year in which second homicide offence was recorded* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 1 |
| 1999-2000 | 8 |
| 2000-01 | 1 |
| 2001-02 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 2 |
| 2003-04 | 4 |
| 2004-05 | 4 |
| 2005-06 | 8 |
| 2006-07 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 1 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |
| Total | 31 |

[1] Data are as at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

According to data held on the Homicide Index, two of these offenders received indeterminate sentences for public protection for their second homicide offences, one received an immediate custodial sentence of 14 years, and a fourth received a Restriction Order under the Mental Health Act 1983. The remainder received life sentences.

Table 2 shows, for the offenders covered in Table 1, the year in which their previous homicide offence was recorded.

*Table 2: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by year in which first homicide offence was committed, England and Wales*[1,2]

| *Year in which first homicide offence was recorded* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 1971 | 1 |
| 1973 | 1 |
| 1975 | 1 |
| 1977 | 1 |
| 1979 | 3 |
| 1982 | 1 |
| 1983 | 1 |
| 1985 | 1 |
| 1986 | 1 |
| 1988 | 1 |
| 1989 | 1 |
| 1991 | 2 |
| 1992 | 1 |
| 1993 | 4 |
| 1996 | 2 |
| 1997 | 2 |
| 1998 | 2 |
| 2000 | 2 |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2002 | 1 |
| Total | 31 |

[1] Data are as at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

One of the offenders shown in Table 2 received a Restriction Order for his first homicide offence. For a further three offenders the custodial sentence lengths are not recorded on the Homicide Index. The custodial sentences given to the remaining offenders are shown in Table 3.

*Table 3: Suspects convicted of homicide, 1998-99 to 2008-09, who had been convicted of homicide on a previous occasion, by length of custodial sentence on previous occasion, England and Wales*

| *Sentence length for first occasion* | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| Over 12 months and up to and including 18 months | 2 |
| Over 18 months and up to and including three years | 0 |
| Over three years and less than four years | 1 |
| Four years | 3 |
| Over four years and up to and including five years | 4 |
| Over five years and up to and including 10 years | 4 |
| Over 10 years and less than life | 1 |
| Indeterminate sentence | 0 |
| Life | 12 |

None of the 31 offenders identified on the Homicide Index as having been convicted of homicide between 1998-99 and 2008-09 with a previous homicide conviction, have been released from prison, according to data held by the Ministry of Justice.

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we are unable to release personal information about individual offenders.

### Prisons: Carbon Emissions

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce the carbon footprint of prisons. [313867]

**Maria Eagle:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is working with constructors to attain the Government's goal of constructing new buildings which emit zero carbon by 2018.

NOMS aim is to produce increasingly sustainable prisons within the budgetary constraints in which it operates, focusing, in particular, on energy and emissions, water, waste and recycling. All new prisons are constructed with the aim of achieving an "excellent" rating under the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method which measures a building's environmental performance.

NOMS are also working with the Partnership for Renewables the Carbon Trust subsidiary, to enable the generation of renewable wind power at sites across the estate that are not needed for operational purposes. If planning decisions are favourable, this could lead to the production of enough energy to offset up to half the Prison Service consumption.

Since 1999 the Prison Service and NOMS have reduced energy consumption by 29 per cent. Currently, 23 per cent. of energy used in prisons is procured from "green" suppliers. In addition to the 29 per cent. reduction the Carbon Management Implementation Plan aims to achieve a 3 per cent. year-on-year saving in carbon emissions in the next five years.

Recently the Prison Service has been awarded the prestigious Carbon Trust Standard for its efforts in reducing the prison estate carbon footprint.

### Prisons: Finance

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 733W, on prisons: budgets, which prison governors have been required to identify savings in their budgets for 2009-10 by Directors of Offender Management. [314596]

**Maria Eagle:** As a general principle all public sector prisons are expected not to exceed their delegated budget for 2009-10. However at some sites this may not possible and the Director of Offender Management will look to cover local pressures from underspends elsewhere within the region. A year-end forecast outturn is agreed locally between the prison Governor and the regional Director of Offender Management taking into account regional financial performance which may require some sites to deliver savings compared to their original budget.

There has not been a specific requirement on public prisons to deliver savings against their delegated budget for 2009-10. But the National Offender Management Service has maintained the need for prisons to use resources efficiently; economically to deliver both value for money and in preparation for planned efficiency measures in 2010-11 which are part of the overall Ministry of Justice budget settlement.

## Reoffenders

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has commissioned research on reoffending patterns. [313773]

**Claire Ward:** The Ministry of Justice makes a key contribution to the goal of reducing reoffending through the National Offender Management Service and the work of the courts. Research in support of the goal to reduce reoffending, which assesses patterns of reoffending, includes: a study to predict the future costs of an offender and three large surveys of offending during and after their contact with the criminal justice system. National Statistics on reoffending are also produced annually for adults and juveniles and quarterly for probation caseload by probation area and upper-tier local authorities.

## Young Offender Institutions: Food

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which young offender institutions provide food in accordance with Department of Health guidelines on *(a)* eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day and *(b)* other aspects of healthy eating. [313801]

**Maria Eagle:** Young offender institutions in England and Wales provide a multi-choice, pre-select menu that includes healthy options—and they must offer at least five portions of fruit and vegetables each day.

There are a number of initiatives to encourage healthy eating including working towards food specifications with reduced sugar and salt content, favouring steaming and baking rather than shallow and deep frying and avoiding adding salt and sugar during the cooking process. A balanced approach to nutrition is being pursued in line with the Department of Health's guidelines.

Educating all prisoners, including young offenders, to eat a more healthy diet is key. Increasingly the National Offender Management Service is adopting a multi-disciplinary approach and working with the Department of Health, the Food Standards Agency and others to encourage individual prisoners to eat more healthily.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest estimate is of the average cost of providing food for an inmate for one week in each young offender institution which holds juveniles. [313802]

**Maria Eagle:** The average Prison Service weekly food expenditure per prisoner[1] in public sector young offender institutions holding juveniles during 2008-09 (latest available data) is shown in the table.

[1] The daily food cost has been calculated using available management information from the National Offender Management Service finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

*Average weekly cost of food per prisoner—2008-09*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Brinsford | 16.85 |
| Castington | 17.61 |
| Cookham Wood[1] | 19.94 |
| Downview | 15.54 |
| Eastwood Park | 18.11 |
| Feltham | 22.48 |
| Foston Hall | 16.95 |
| Hindley | 17.51 |
| Huntercombe | 18.27 |
| New Hall | 17.29 |
| Stoke Heath | 17.36 |
| Warren Hill[2] | 18.31 |
| Werrington | 22.48 |
| Wetherby | 18.08 |

[1] Includes Rochester as its kitchen also provides meals for Cookham Wood and it is not possible to separate food costs for the two sites.

[2] Includes Hollesley Bay as their kitchen also provides meals for Warren Hill and it is not possible to separate food costs for the two sites.

## Youth Custody

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on youth custody: manpower, how many *(a)* children and young people and *(b)* staff there are in each (i) secure children's home and (ii) secure training centre. [314682]

**Maria Eagle:** The population of each secure children's home and secure training centre is set out in the following table. The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

*Young people in secure training centres and secure children's homes, as at 1 January 2010*

| *Unit* | *Young people in custody* |
|---|---|
| *Secure children's home* | |
| Aldine House | 4 |
| Aycliffe | 21 |
| Barton Moss | 18 |
| Clayfields | 10 |
| East Moor | 20 |
| Hillside | 14 |
| Lincolnshire | 8 |
| Red Bank | 21 |
| Swanwick Lodge | 12 |
| Vinney Green | 20 |
| | |
| *Secure training centre* | |
| Rainsbrook | 65 |
| Medway | 59 |
| Oakhill | 61 |
| Hassockfield | 49 |

The Youth Justice Board agrees minimum staffing levels with providers of secure training centres.

The total number of staff employed at secure training centres and secure children's homes is decided by the relevant provider. This information is commercially confidential, as it would be of value to competitors when tendering for contracts.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on youth custody: manpower, what the ratio of staff to prisoners is in the *(a)* Down View, *(b)* Eastwood Park, *(c)* Foston Hall, *(d)* New Hall, *(e)* Parc and *(f)* Keppel Unit, Wetherby young offenders institution. [314683]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the staff to prisoner ratio for each of the establishments listed at 31 December 2009. The data have been drawn from administrative systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. The ratios relate to staff across the entire establishments and not just those parts which hold young offenders. The ratios are calculated as the number of unified staff, which consists of officers and operational managers, employed for each prisoner.

*Officer and operational manager to prisoner ratios (as at 31 December 2009)*

| *Establishment* | *Unified staff* | *Total population* | *Ratio of unified staff to prisoners* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Downview | 131 | 340 | 2.6 |
| Eastwood Park | 162 | 259 | 1.6 |
| Foston Hall | 153 | 219 | 1.4 |
| New Hall | 221 | 356 | 1.6 |
| Wetherby[1] | 235 | 310 | 1.3 |
| Parc[2] | 286 | 1,156 | 4.0 |

[1] Figures for Keppel unit are not available, full establishment figures provided.

[2] Figures for Parc relate to 30 November 2009.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 940-1W, on youth custody, how many accommodation units there are in *(a)* Down View, *(b)* Eastwood Park, *(c)* Foston Hall, *(d)* New Hall, *(d)* Parc and *(e)* Keppel Unit, Wetherby young offenders institution; how many staff are employed in each such unit; and how many young people each such unit accommodates. [314684]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the number (and operational capacity) of those accommodation units that are used to hold young people (under 18) in the relevant establishments. The table also includes the operational capacity and the total number of staff in post at these establishments.

| *Establishment* | *Number of units* | *Operational capacity of units* | *Operational capacity of establishment*[1] | *Total number of staff in post*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Downview | 1 | 17 | 359 | 131 |
| Eastwood Park | 1 | 16 | 362 | 162 |
| Foston Hall | 1 | 17 | 291 | 153 |
| New Hall | 1 | 28 | 447 | 221 |
| Parc | 2 | 64 | 1200 | 286 |
| Wetherby | [2]7 | 408 | 408 | 235 |

[1] December 2009

[2] Including Kepple Unit

These figures have been drawn from central administrative/recording systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Broadband

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of households in the UK and which geographical areas he estimates will be without broadband access after the Universal Service Commitment has been fulfilled in 2012. [313762]

**Mr. Timms:** Our ambition is to ensure a service is available to all households and businesses in the UK. There may be some areas which for technical reasons prove prohibitively expensive to serve using any technologies, but I expect these to be somewhat less than 1 per cent. These premises—if any—will be identified through the tender process.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which geographical areas of the UK have no broadband access. [313778]

**Mr. Timms:** According to Ofcom's Communications Market Report published in August 2009, over 99 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange. The Report can be found at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/cm/cmr09/cmr09.pdf

We estimate that 89 per cent. of homes can readily get a 2 Mbps (or higher) broadband service (as reported in the Digital Britain White Paper, June 2009). According to the website "Sam Knows" there are currently 24 unenabled exchanges throughout the UK: Barvas, Berneray, Bornish, Carloway, Carnan, Drinnishadder, East Marden, Eriskay, Great Bernera, Grogarry, Isfield, Leverburgh, Locheport, Lochmaddy, Manish, North Tolsta, Northbay, Plaistow, Roding, Scalpay, Scarista, Scarp, Sutton and Timsgarry. Other homes unable to access a 2 Mbps level of broadband due to line length or other factors are widely dispersed throughout the country.

### Business

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to ensure that people with legal responsibilities for companies in liquidation are not able to form new companies before having met the liabilities of the original company. [312550]

**Ian Lucas:** There are no plans to require directors to meet the liabilities of a company in liquidation before being allowed to form a new company. It is a long established principle that the debts of a company do not fall on the directors save in certain limited circumstances, for example where they have given personal guarantees. To breach this principle would run the risk of deterring entrepreneurial behaviour.

It should be remembered that not all companies fail through the fault of directors, but where their behaviour falls short of that expected, we can and do take action to have them disqualified.

Successful action against a director, under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, debars him or her from participating in the formation, promotion, or management of a limited company for a period of up to 15 years.

## Business: Government Assistance

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of banks which have asked applicants under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme to use their homes as collateral for a loan; and if he will make a statement. [302099]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government have made it very clear that lenders are not permitted to take a direct charge over a principal private residence for a new EFG loan. The Department issued a clarification to this effect in February 2009 to the lenders which is published on the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise/finance/efg/page50308.html

Where the Department has been informed of instances where it is alleged that lenders have attempted to contravene the rules, these instances have been raised with the lender concerned. However, due to level of correspondence the department receives on EFG in general, we do not hold figures on the number of cases or of banks where this has been an issue.

It is important to distinguish between an EFG loan and where a bank is offering a business a loan on commercial terms. This line can often become blurred as financing arrangements can be complex. For example, a lender might offer a package of lending to a company that includes EFG and non-EFG lending. The EFG rules apply only to the EFG component of any loan package.

If a lender decides that they can lend commercially but require security in the form of a residential property to do so, the Government would not expect them to offer an EFG loan as an alternative. EFG should only be used where the business is viable but the lender is not able to lend on commercial terms.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to ensure that borrowing guaranteed under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme relates to new lending only. [313143]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is a facility for lenders to enable additional lending to viable SMEs who sit on the margins of commercial lending decisions.

EFG not only enables new terms loans, but also refinancing of existing term loans, overdraft conversion, guarantees on invoice facilities, and guarantees on new or increased overdraft borrowing. Lenders are required to state which form of lending is being undertaken in each case before the loan guarantee is approved.

However, in respect of refinancing existing debts EFG may only be used in cases where the lender is able to certify that the borrower is viable but requires a rescheduling of those debts to ease cash flow pressures, and where the borrower has insufficient security to enable that rescheduling to take place without the support of EFG.

## Business: Sports

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has taken steps to assist field sports businesses during the recession. [312855]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There is no specific help for field sports businesses. However, this Department has introduced a range of general measures to help businesses through the global recession and is continuing to provide help to promote growth during the recovery. Small and medium-sized businesses can find information and support at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

or by contacting the Business Link Helpline on: 0845 6009006.

Measures include:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG)—encourages additional bank lending to viable businesses who have no or insufficient security and who would not otherwise secure a commercial loan. A £1.3 billion facility is in place to be accessed by the end of March 2010, and this was extended in the recent Pre-Budget Report for a further year to March 2011, with a £500 million budget for the financial year 2010-11. Over £1.11 billion of eligible EFG applications from over 9,870 firms have been granted, are being processed or assessed, and over 7,630 businesses have been offered loans totalling nearly £780 million.

The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF)—a £75 million fund supporting viable business with equity or mezzanine investment aimed at releasing and sustaining growth and can invest between £200,000 and £2 million where the business has exhausted its borrowing capacity with lenders. Offers totalling £84.5 million have been made to 55 businesses, of which 34 offers worth £52.6 million are live. 18 businesses have received investment so far totalling £25 million. Businesses who would like to explore whether the fund might benefit them can contact the fund managers assigned to their geographical location through:

www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/portfolio

Health Checks through Business Link, which provide a free review of a business with a professional business adviser for hands-on advice and help accessing the full range of Government help. To date, over 110, 000 businesses have benefited from health checks. 79 per cent. of SMEs accessing Health Checks were satisfied with the information provided and of those who accessed additional support, 93 per cent. were satisfied with this further assistance. 86 per cent. of all assisted businesses would recommend Health Checks to other businesses.[1]

Encouraging prompt payment—Government Departments have committed to pay their bills within 10 days to help small businesses. From 1 June 2009 to 31 December 2009 central Government Departments have paid nearly £107 billion worth of payments in 10 days. And we have encouraged big companies to sign up to a Code of Practice to help their suppliers (according to data provide by Experian the total value of suppliers to prompt payment code signatories is over £750 billion). We are also helping business manage their finances (over 109,000 guides on 'Help with Managing your cashflow' have already been downloaded from the BusinessLink.gov.uk website).

Additional flexibilities for SMEs were introduced into Train to Gain from January 2009 to help employers continue to train their staff through the recession in preparation for the recovery. These flexibilities included access to funding for repeat qualifications, the introduction of units of learning in business critical areas such as marketing and IT, and extension of the access to the leadership and management advisory service for very small SMEs (less than 10 employees). In 2008/09 academic year, over 559,800 SME employees have started courses through Train to Gain.

In addition, the Solutions for Business (SfB) portfolio is the Government's long-term, simplified offer of support products for business. Government provide about £2 billion of support to business through the portfolio. Solutions for Business products offer help with common issues such as accessing finance, innovation, business and manufacturing advice, research and development, knowledge sharing, skills and training, exporting and overseas trade, and resource efficiency, including low carbon. Small and medium-sized businesses can find information and support at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/solutions

[1] Early Assessment of Business Link Healthchecks—November 2009.

### Business: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Torbay constituency. [313333]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I can confirm that, as of 20 January 2010, 13 businesses have been offered loans valued in total at £800,000, of which 10 with a total value of £600,000 have been drawn down by businesses as part of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) scheme, part of the Government's Real Help for Business Now support.

I can also confirm that during 2009, Business Link, the primary access channel for business to access Government support, has assisted a total of 2,280 small and medium sized businesses and seven large businesses in the Torbay unitary authority area. Of these, 307 received more intensive support to help their business. Since October 2008, BL has completed 465 health checks for businesses in the Torbay area. This compares to 9,636 health checks that have been completed in the region as a whole as at the end of December 2009.

South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) provides a range of assistance in the Torbay area to ensure the supply of suitable business premises, business support and advice. This includes the provision of funding for a network of Innovation Centres which will provide incubation space for new business start-ups in the knowledge based sectors.

SWRDA also provides specialist help and advice to larger companies in Torbay, for example on graduate level recruitment and energy matters. Companies in the area also benefit from the services of the South West MAS (Manufacturing Advisory Service).

The RDA and other partners also come together as the Devon Area Action Force and work closely with those Torbay companies facing redundancies.

The local fishing industry will benefit from the RDA and EU-funded Brixham fish market which aims to sustain fishing and other industries in the town. The White Rock Business Park, in Paignton, is being developed using RDA and ERDF finance and will support 3,000 jobs. The RDA is also investing £2.5 million, as co-financing with ERDF, business support under the Urban Enterprise priority of the Competitiveness programme.

### Business: Weather

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to business in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the East Midlands of the adverse weather conditions of December 2009 and January 2010. [312224]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are no official estimates at this early stage of local, regional or national cost to business as a result of the adverse weather but there are indications that some businesses lost trade due to customers being unable to travel or lost output due to staff being unable to attend work. We will continue to monitor the situation and estimates as these become available.

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies plans to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to cut carbon emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010. [311389]

**Mr. McFadden:** This Department is supportive of the objectives of the 10:10 campaign. BIS has been working towards achieving the Government's extensive SOGE targets in recent years and has plans to further reduce its carbon emissions over the next or so. BIS does, however, have some reservations as to whether it can be sure of hitting the 2010 target as it is in the middle of reorganising its London HQ estate to accommodate the summer 2009 machinery of Government changes.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to my hon. Friend.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 29 January 2010:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question whether (a) his Department and (b) each of its agencies plans to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to cut its carbon emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010.

The Insolvency Service has not signed up to this specific initiative to cut carbon emissions. The agency has however already made significant progress towards reducing its carbon emissions, including through the introduction of new IT, which utilises 'thin-client' desktop devices. In addition we have developed a strategic action plan, which should see further substantial improvements in our contribution to the climate change agenda over the coming years.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 29 January 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 13 January 2010, UIN 311389, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House supports the 10:10 campaign and will be trying to reduce its carbon emissions accordingly. In recent years, however, Companies House has been proactively reducing its carbon emissions to meet the government's SOGE targets. This has meant that a large majority of energy efficient measures have already been implemented, and the carbon savings are already being achieved.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 29 January 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question, tabled on 13 January, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking whether the Department and its agencies planned to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to cut carbon emissions by 10% in 2010.

The National Measurement Office is committed to contributing to the Government's aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the UK. However, it will not be in a position to sign up to the 10:10 campaign in the terms which have been proposed. This is because we will shortly be taking on new activities here connected with enforcing certain environmental regulations, notably the Energy Using Products Regulations. We expect that this work, by supporting the effective enforcement of these regulations, will have a significantly larger effect on reducing emissions across the country than attempting to impose restrictions on energy use within our own building which would hinder this important regulatory work.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 15 January 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 13 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property office is currently considering signing up to the 10:10 campaign. We have already set ourselves an internal target for 2009/10 to reduce all carbon emissions by 10%.

## Departmental Advertising

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what advertising campaigns for which his Department is responsible have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10; and what the total cost of each campaign has been. [309936]

**Mr. McFadden:** The total cost of advertising campaigns in 2009/10 cannot be provided as the exact costs will not be known until all the campaigns have been completed when fully audited figures will be available.

We can provide figures for spend to date on advertising campaigns in 2009/10:

*2009/10 Campaign*

£

| | *Press* | *Radio* | *Poster* | *Online* | *Media total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vulnerable Workers Campaign 2009/10 | 483,732 | 120,089 | 225,875 | 294,429 | 1,124,125 |
| Agency Workers | — | — | — | 322,806 | 322,806 |
| National Minimum Wage 2009/10 | — | 68,653 | 31,165 | 137,000 | 236,818 |
| Employing People | — | — | — | 2,280 | 2,280 |
| Graduate Internship Program 2009/10 | 191,000 | 400,000 | — | 400,000 | 991,000 |
| Science: (So what? So everything) campaign 2009/10 | 19,167 | — | — | — | 19,167 |
| Trawlermen Compensation Scheme 2009/10 | 5,913 | — | — | — | 5,913 |
| Total 2009/10 to date | — | — | — | — | 2,702,109 |

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he expects his Department to spend on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [310217]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department expects to incur on advertising in the next 12 months; and for what purposes. [304565]

**Mr. McFadden:** Spending on advertising procured through the Central Office of Information (COI) by the Department in 2009-10 to date is as follows (this includes spend for advertising campaigns started by the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)):

£

| *2009-10 Campaign* | *Press* | *Radio* | *Poster* | *Online* | *Media total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vulnerable Workers Campaign 2009-10 | 483,732 | 120,089 | 225,875 | 294,429 | 1,124,125 |
| Agency Workers | — | — | — | 322,806 | 322,806 |
| National Minimum Wage 2009-10 | | 68,653 | 31,165 | 137,000 | 236,818 |
| Employing People | — | — | — | 2,280 | 2,280 |
| Graduate Internship Program 2009-10 | 191,000 | 400,000 | — | 400,000 | 991,000 |
| Science: (So what? So everything) campaign 2009-10 | 19,167 | — | — | — | 19,167 |
| Trawlermen Compensation Scheme 2009-10 | 5,913 | — | — | — | 5,913 |
| Total 2009-10 to date | — | — | — | — | 2,702,109 |

Expected expenditure on further advertising campaigns planned for the remainder of 2009-10 is:

National Minimum Wage: £429,428 total

(£214,317 for radio and £215,111 for press)

Science So What, So Everything: £229,306 total

(£141,242 for radio partnership, £80,664 for digital partnership and £7,400 for digital search).

Expected expenditure on advertising in 2010-11 cannot be provided as plans have not yet been finalised.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on advertising in the last 12 months; and for what purposes. [304564]

**Mr. McFadden:** It is not possible to provide figures for expenditure on advertising confined to the last 12 calendar months. We can provide figures for spend in financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10 to date.

Spending on advertising procured through the Central Office of Information (COI) by the Department in 2009/10 to date is as follows (this includes spend for advertising campaigns started by the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS):

*2009/10 BIS Campaign*

£

| | *Press* | *Radio* | *Poster* | *Online* | *Media total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vulnerable Workers Campaign 2009/10 | 483,732 | 120,089 | 225,875 | 294,429 | 1,124,125 |
| Agency Workers | — | — | — | 322,806 | 322,806 |
| National Minimum Wage 2009/10 | — | 68,653 | 31,165 | 137,000 | 236,818 |
| Employing People | — | — | — | 2,280 | 2,280 |
| Graduate Internship Program 2009/10 | 191,000 | 400,000 | — | 400,000 | 991,000 |
| Science: (So what? So everything) campaign 2009/10 | 19,167 | — | — | — | 19,167 |
| National Minimum Wage 2009/10 | — | 68,653 | 31,165 | — | 99,818 |
| Trawlermen Compensation Scheme 2009/10 | 5,913 | — | — | — | 5,913 |
| Total 2009/10 to date | — | — | — | — | 2,702,109 |

Spending on advertising procured through COI by BERR and DIUS in 2008/09 is as follows:

*2008/09 BERR Campaign*

£

| | *Press* | *Radio* | *Poster* | *Online* | *Media total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agency Workers Campaign 2008/09 (first part of the Vulnerable Workers campaign) | 341,212 | 518,139 | — | 128,469 | 987,820 |
| Employing People 2008/09 | 37,140 | — | — | 544,454 | 581,594 |
| National Minimum Wage 2008/09 | 30,260 | 34,429 | 114,133 | 105,780 | 284,602 |
| Dispute Resolution 2008/09 | 5,977 | — | — | 14,999 | 20,976 |
| Trawlermen Compensation Scheme 2008/09 | 3,317 | — | — | — | 3,317 |
| Total 2008/09 | — | — | — | — | 1,878,309 |

*2008/09 DIUS campaign*

£

| | *Press* | *Television* | *Radio* | *Online* | *Media total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Higher Education Student Finance campaign 2008/09 | 155,000 | 1,400,000 | 305,000 | 335,000 | 2,195,000 |
| Science: (So what? So everything) campaign 2008/09 | 149,577 | — | — | — | 149,577 |
| Science and Innovation Consultation Search 2008/09 | — | — | — | 1,181 | 1,181 |
| Aim Higher websites hosting and updates 2008/09 | — | — | — | 5,182 | 5,182 |
| DIUS Graduate Careers and Postgraduate Study | — | — | — | 39,999 | 39,999 |
| Total 2008/09 | — | — | — | — | 2,390,939 |

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many industrial tribunals relating to his Department there have been in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was of such tribunals in each such year. [310748]

**Mr. McFadden:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 850W. We only hold figures from 2006 onwards.

## Higher Education: Fees and Charges

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of students from *(a)* Herefordshire and *(b)* England have made applications for (i) a student loan for maintenance, (ii) a student loan for tuition fees, (iii) a maintenance grant and (iv) a special support grant for the 2009-10 academic year; when he expects all such applications to have been determined; and if he will make a statement. [307154]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) has provided the following information on applications to 13 December 2009. Students do not specifically apply for grants. However, eligibility is determined by means testing and where means testing has been specifically requested this has been included as a guide to determining number of applicants who wish to be considered for maintenance or special support grant.

I am advised that Student Finance England is now processing applications within normal time scales. It is still receiving around 1,000 new applications per week which will typically be processed within six weeks if all the required information and evidence has been provided.

The SLC regularly provides high level processing and payment figures on their website and I am advised it will continue to do so on a monthly basis.

*All applications received as at 13 December 2009*

| | *rounded to nearest 100* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Herefordshire* | *England* |
| Total number of applications available for processing | [1]3,200 | 934,000 |
| Requesting tuition fee loan | 3,000 | 847,900 |
| Requesting maintenance loan | 3,100 | 860,500 |
| Requesting means testing | 2,200 | 619,800 |

[1] Of the total number of applications available for processing as at 13 December 2009, 10 applications relating to Herefordshire were in process. The others had either been approved, found to be ineligible for support or had been processed as far as possible but were awaiting further information from the applicant.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been applied for in respect of *(a)* a student loan for maintenance, *(b)* a student loan for tuition fees, *(c)* a maintenance grant and *(d)* a special support grant for the academic year 2009-10 which are still being processed; and if he will make a statement. [307155]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) has provided information on how much was applied for in the 5,000 applications[1] which were still being processed as at 13 December 2009. These applications represent about 0.5 per cent. of those available for processing for the 2009/10 academic year. As processing has not been completed in these cases it is not possible to provide figures on how much was applied for in grants as applicants do not apply for a specific amount. The amount is calculated through the means testing part of processing.

I am advised that Student Finance England is now processing applications within normal timescales. It is still receiving around 1,000 new applications per week which will typically be processed within six weeks if all the required information and evidence has been provided.

The SLC regularly provides high level processing and payment figures on their website and I am advised it will continue to do so on a monthly basis.

[1] The figure of 5,000 applications in process does not include applications withdrawn by the applicant prior to approval, started online but never submitted to SLC, or those which SLC have processed as far as possible but are awaiting further information from students/sponsors.

*Table: Total amount applied for in loans of the 5,000 applications in process as at 13 December 2009*

| | *Count of applications (rounded to nearest 100)* | *Amount requested (rounded to nearest £000)* |
|---|---|---|
| *Tuition Fee loans* | | |
| Requested maximum Tuition Fee loan | 2,400 | [1]n/a |
| Requested partial Tuition Fee loan | 300 | 584,000 |
| Requested no Tuition Fee loan | 600 | 0 |
| Requested loan not yet known | 1,700 | [2]n/a |
| *Maintenance loans* | | |
| Requested maximum Maintenance loan | 2,600 | [3]n/a |
| Requested partial Maintenance loan | 100 | [4]290,000 |
| Requested no Maintenance loan | 600 | 0 |
| Requested loan not yet known | 1,700 | [2]n/a |

[1] The maximum Tuition Fee available in academic year 2009/10 was £3,225. However some Higher Education Institutions charge less.

[2] These are applications at the very first workstage in the application processing cycle. Details of applicant, course and loans requested will not yet have been entered into the application assessment system.

[3] The maximum Maintenance Loan available in academic year 2009/10 depends on cohort year of entry of the applicant and place of residence for applicant during term time. See Student Support for Higher Education England Awards Statistical First release for Academic Year 2009/10 (provisional), Table 1 'Student Support available', for further details: http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr062009.pdf

[4] Note that the amount actually paid may be less than the amount requested depending on assessed entitlement.

## Higher Education: Radicalism

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when a Minister in his Department last met Professor Anthony Glees of Buckingham University to discuss extremism in universities. [311460]

**Mr. Lammy:** No Ministers in either the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills or the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills have met with Professor Anthony Glees of Buckingham University.

## Higher Education: Vetting

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he bring forward proposals to prevent people with a conviction for a crime of incitement from being employed at a higher educational establishment. [311502]

**Mr. Lammy:** Convictions for crimes of incitement or violence even if spent must be declared on UCAS forms and applications from non-UCAS students. Universities will assess the risk in consultation with the police and relevant agencies and make appropriate decisions on whether a place should be offered. Higher education establishments are responsible for their own admissions policies and we do not centrally direct them. For international students, UKBA will assess prior convictions when making decisions on issuing visas.

### Overseas Students: Admissions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what supporting documents his Department requires from the Governments of overseas countries prior to the commencement of education in the UK of students who are foreign nationals. [311500]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

Overseas Governments are not routinely required to provide supporting documents for students wishing to study here. However, where a student is in receipt of financial sponsorship from their home Government, supporting documents are required to verify that a student meets the maintenance requirements specified in Tier 4 of the Points Based System.

Other documents issued by overseas Governments are required for applications, for example passports and birth certificates. While they are Government issued they are not required to be produced specifically for applications to UKBA.

### Regional Development Agencies: Mining

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons *(a)* his Department's representatives and *(b)* representatives of regional development agencies did not attend the Department for Communities and Local Government's forum to co-ordinate cross-government working in coalfield areas as noted in National Audit Office's report on English Coalfields, HC 84, para 3.20. [311553]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Responsibility for taking forward the economic regeneration of the former coalfield areas rests with the appropriate regional development agency (RDAs) in each region. Therefore, it is more appropriate for representatives of the RDAs to participate in the forum, rather than central BIS officials.

The forum held five meetings between July 2007 and July 2009. Yorkshire Forward (YF) was the only RDA invitee to the meetings. YF was unable to attend three meetings due to diary commitments and an administrative error and they did not receive invitations for two meetings. The forum meetings held in September and December 2009 were attended by representatives from Yorkshire Forward.

### Runshaw College

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business. Innovation and Skills how many part-time students have registered for a higher education course at Runshaw College in each of the last five years. [314219]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information on the numbers of students studying higher education level courses at further education colleges is not published at institution level.

### Small Businesses: Taxation

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in *(a)* Morecambe and *(b)* Lancashire have applied to defer their tax payments in 2009-10 under the Government's late payment scheme. [311558]

**Mr. Timms:** Since its introduction on 24 November 2008 HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) has agreed over 270,000 time to pay arrangements to spread tax payments of about £4.7 billion over timetables businesses can afford.

From 24 November 2008 to 24 January 2010 HMRC agreed 5,270 time to pay arrangements, worth £78 million, under the BPSS with businesses in Lancashire. Data relating specifically to Morecambe, or just for small businesses are not available.

### Students: Bankruptcy

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many undergraduate students resident in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England have declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [314883]

**Mr. Lammy:** The number of undergraduate students who have declared themselves bankrupt is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of undergraduate students in England who have student loans and who have notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their bankruptcy while studying. However, the table does not include students who have not applied for student finance and students who have student loans but who have not notified the SLC that they are bankrupt.

| *Financial Year* | *Students*[1] |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 5 |
| 1998-99 | 10 |
| 1999-00 | 15 |
| 2000-01 | 5 |
| 2001-02 | 15 |
| 2002-03 | 20 |
| 2003-04 | 70 |
| 2004-05[2] | 60 |
| 2005-06[2] | 30 |
| 2006-07[2] | 15 |
| 2007-08[2] | 15 |

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Since 2004 student loans are no longer written-off due to bankruptcy. From that time the number of students notifying the SLC of their bankruptcy has declined.

*Note:*

Figures for Suffolk and the East of England cannot be supplied as they are so small as to potentially identify individuals.

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

### Students: Finance

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students in higher education who have not received student finance payments for the academic year 2009-10. [314691]

**Mr. Lammy:** Data on numbers of applications processed, paid and still to be paid are available on the SLC website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/facts%20and%20%20figures/index.html

I am advised that Student Finance England is now processing applications within normal timescales. It is still receiving over 1,000 new applications per week which will typically be processed within six weeks, once all the required information and evidence has been provided.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who have left their course of study as a result of not receiving their student finance payments for the academic year 2009-10. [314692]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department has not made an estimate of numbers of students who have withdrawn from a course in 2009/10 academic year due to delays in receiving student finance.

Many students whose means tested applications could not be processed before the start of term, for example because of incomplete evidence, were given provisional non means tested maintenance awards and confirmation that their tuition fees would be paid.

Students whose application for student support was not approved by the start of term would have been able to apply for help through the Access to Learning Fund which is provided by the Government and administered by Higher Education Institutions, and can provide assistance to students in financial hardship.

### Students: Loans

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students resident in *(a)* each local authority area in the North West and *(b)* England had not received their first student loan payment for the academic year 2009-10 by 4 January 2010. [309869]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The information in the following table has been provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and is a snapshot of the position at 3 January 2010 as regards payment of maintenance loans and grants for new and returning students studying in England and north-west England for academic year 2009-10.

| | *England total* | *North-west England total* | *Blackpool* | *Bolton* | *Bury* | *Cheshire* | *Halton* | *Knowsley* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Approved applicants where course has not yet started | 800 | 170 | 10 | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Approved applicants confirmed as attending course and eligible for payment | 828,240 | 108,850 | 2,090 | 4,560 | 3,620 | 12,520 | 1,730 | 2,220 |
| Students who have received first term's maintenance payment | 825,170 | 108,470 | 2,080 | 4,540 | 3,600 | 12,440 | 1,730 | 2,220 |
| Students with first payment currently being processed through the banking system | 1,760 | 250 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| Students due to be paid for whom payment has not been released | 1,310 | 130 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Of which NI number being verified with DWP | 980 | 90 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Of which customer has not yet provided bank account details or payment blocked for another reason (e.g. fraud suspected) | 330 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | *Lancashire* | *Liverpool* | *Manchester* | *Oldham* | *Rochdale* | *Salford* | *Sefton* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Approved applicants where course has not yet started | 10 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Approved applicants confirmed as attending course and eligible for payment | 20,780 | 7,570 | 8,110 | 3,660 | 3,540 | 3,260 | 5,500 |
| Students who have received first term's maintenance payment | 20,720 | 7,550 | 8,080 | 3,640 | 3,520 | 3,250 | 5,490 |
| Students with first payment currently being processed through the banking system | 40 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Students due to be paid for whom payment has not been released | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Of which NI number being verified with DWP | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |

| | *Lancashire* | *Liverpool* | *Manchester* | *Oldham* | *Rochdale* | *Salford* | *Sefton* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Of which customer has not yet provided bank account details or payment blocked for another reason (e.g. fraud suspected) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | *St. Helens* | *Stockport* | *Tameside* | *Trafford* | *Warrington* | *Wigan* | *Wirral* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Approved applicants where course has not yet started | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Approved applicants confirmed as attending course and eligible for payment | 2,660 | 5,360 | 3,100 | 4,820 | 3,490 | 4,320 | 5,950 |
| Students who have received first term's maintenance payment | 2,660 | 5,340 | 3,090 | 4,810 | 3,480 | 4,310 | 5,930 |
| Students with first payment currently being processed through the banking system | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Students due to be paid for whom payment has not been released | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Of which NI number being verified with DWP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Of which customer has not yet provided bank account details or payment blocked for another reason (e.g. fraud suspected) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Rounded to nearest 10 applications.
2. Data effective 3 January 2010, no data source effective 4 January 2010 available for analysis.
3. Excludes applications where the university has not confirmed the student's attendance; applications which were cancelled or ineligible, and online applications which were started but not submitted to SLC.

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each age group resident in *(a)* each local education authority area in the North West and *(b)* England had paid their student loans in full on the latest date for which figures are available. [312988]

**Mr. Lammy:** The following table provides a breakdown by age of those students whose accounts are fully repaid and all the accounting action is complete as at 30 June 2009. However, as at the same date, there were a further 164,600 borrowers in England who had fully repaid their loan, but whose accounts were still in the process of being closed. It is not possible for us to provide a breakdown by age of those students.

*Income-contingent loans fully repaid[1]*

| | *Age band at fully repaid date* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Less than 20* | *20-24* | *25-29* | *30-39* | *40-49* | *50 and over* | *Grand total* |
| England | 4,050 | 18,780 | 4,090 | 2,670 | 1,490 | 410 | 31,500 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Blackpool | * | 20 | 10 | * | * | * | 40 |
| Bolton | 30 | 90 | 20 | 10 | 10 | * | 150 |
| Bury | 10 | 80 | 10 | 20 | 10 | * | 120 |
| Cheshire | 60 | 310 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 480 |
| Cumbria | 50 | 140 | 20 | 30 | 10 | * | 250 |
| Halton | 10 | 30 | * | * | * | * | 40 |
| Knowsley | * | 30 | 10 | * | * | * | 40 |
| Lancashire | 110 | 400 | 70 | 80 | 40 | 20 | 720 |
| Liverpool | 10 | 60 | 30 | 20 | 10 | * | 130 |
| Manchester | 20 | 70 | 30 | 20 | 10 | * | 150 |
| Oldham | 20 | 70 | 10 | 10 | 10 | * | 110 |
| Rochdale | 10 | 80 | 10 | 10 | 10 | * | 110 |
| Salford | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | * | * | 50 |
| Sefton | 30 | 90 | 20 | 10 | * | * | 150 |
| St. Helens | 10 | 30 | 10 | 10 | * | * | 70 |
| Stockport | 30 | 100 | 20 | 10 | 10 | * | 170 |
| Tameside | 10 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 10 | * | 70 |
| Trafford | 20 | 80 | 10 | 10 | 10 | * | 130 |
| Warrington | 10 | 50 | 10 | * | 10 | * | 80 |

|  | *Income-contingent loans fully repaid*[1] |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Age band at fully repaid date* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Local authority* | *Less than 20* | *20-24* | *25-29* | *30-39* | *40-49* | *50 and over* | *Grand total* |
| Wigan | 10 | 50 | 10 | 10 | * | * | 90 |
| Wirral | 20 | 80 | 20 | 10 | * | * | 140 |

* = less than 5.

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in each constituency received a tuition fee loan in the latest year for which figures are available. [315076]

**Mr. Lammy:** Reliable information is not available at constituency level.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Poverty

16. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of in-work benefits in countering child poverty. [314116]

**Helen Goodman:** In work benefits have already helped to lift 500,000 out of poverty. The increase in housing benefit, council tax benefit and child benefit alongside other measures including tax credits and the announced extension of free school meals to primary school age children from low income working families mean that over 2 million fewer children are living in poverty than would have been the case if we had simply uprated the 1997 system in line with prices.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of her Department's progress towards meeting its 2010 child poverty target. [314107]

**Helen Goodman:** The decisive action taken by this Government has significantly reversed the trend of rising child poverty. As a result of the policies introduced since 1997 we have lifted 500,000 children out of relative poverty and halved absolute poverty.

Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 will lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty.

The Government remain committed to the sustainable eradication of child poverty. The Child Poverty Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, will enshrine in law the commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and, as far as possible, ensure that children do not experience socio-economic disadvantage.

### Pension Credit

18. **Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of pensioners eligible for but not claiming pension credit. [314118]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government are committed to ensuring pensioners receive áll the support they are entitled to.

Pension credit take up is between 61 and 70 per cent. which increases to between 72 and 81 per cent. for the guarantee credit only which is paid to the poorest and generally older pensioners.

### Income Support: Pregnancy

19. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to extend eligibility for income support to women who are 12 weeks pregnant. [314120]

**Helen Goodman:** The existing rules for Income Support are consistent with support for pregnant women in and out of work. Entitlement to IS and Maternity Leave, both begin at the 11th week before the EDO. This strikes a fair balance between the needs of taxpayers and employers and supporting individuals and families.

We therefore have no plans to change them.

### Benefits Inquiries

20. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to ensure that inquiries about benefits from members of the public are dealt with locally; and if she will make a statement. [314121]

**Helen Goodman:** In common with other organisations telephony services are considered more accessible to a wider range of customers, increasing access to our services and the efficient use of public resources. Vulnerable customers not able to use the telephone are offered local face-to-face assistance.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service makes around 700,000 home visits a year to pensioners and disabled people. Working with partners it also supports a local information point network providing face-to-face information and advice about benefits and other services.

### Jobcentre Plus: Coventry

22. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to refurbish Jobcentre Plus offices in Coventry. [314123]

**Jim Knight:** We are aiming to use our existing estate wherever we can and have made some minor refurbishments to our offices.

Tile Hill Jobcentre has gained 11 more customer-facing desks and staff in non-customer facing roles have relocated to an adjacent site, freeing up 80 additional desks.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

23. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population in *(a)* Rochford and Southend East constituency and *(b)* the UK is claiming jobseeker's allowance. [314124]

**Jim Knight:** In December 2009, 5.9 per cent. of the working age population of Rochford and Southend, East and 4.1 per cent. of the working age population of the UK were claiming jobseeker's allowance.

Current figures for the UK are lower than had been expected.

24. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who will make a claim for jobseeker's allowance in 2010. [314125]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not publish forecasts for the number of people who will make claims for jobseeker's allowance.

In the pre-Budget report the Treasury published a projection for the claimant count showing it peaking at 1.75 million around the middle of this year and falling thereafter.

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Isle of Wight constituency is claiming jobseeker's allowance. [314117]

**Jim Knight:** In December 2009, 4.5 per cent. of the working age population of the Isle of Wight and 4.1 per cent. of the working age population of the UK were claiming jobseeker's allowance.

Current figures for the UK are 450,000 lower than had been predicted at the time of the Budget.

## Future Jobs Fund

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support Jobcentre Plus provides for jobseekers under the Future Jobs Fund. [314114]

**Jim Knight:** The future jobs fund, part of the young person's guarantee, will ensure that all 18 to 24-year-olds who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months will be supported into a job, work experience placement or work-related training, following completion of a personalised 'back to work' plan devised with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

## Youth Unemployment

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the level of youth unemployment. [314122]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently 927,000 ILO unemployed young people aged 16 to 24, which is a fall of 16,000 on the previous quarter. Of these, 269,000 (almost 30 per cent.) are in full-time education.

The youth claimant count has fallen for the second consecutive month and is now 483,700.

## Attendance Allowance: Ashford Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people resident in Ashford constituency claimed attendance allowance in each of the last five years; [313515]

(2) how many people resident in Ashford constituency have claimed disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [313517]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the following table.

*Attendance allowance and disability living allowance—cases in payment in Ashford parliamentary constituency*

| | *May 2005* | *May 2006* | *May 2007* | *May 2008* | *May 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attendance allowance | 1,930 | 2,020 | 2,150 | 2,280 | 2,390 |
| Disability living allowance | 3,850 | 3,980 | 4,130 | 4,400 | 4,700 |

*Notes:*

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures have been taken by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus, *(c)* the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission (CMEC) and *(d)* other relevant bodies to promote the services of CMEC and to develop the information and support available through the Child Maintenance Options service to (i) parents already using the CSA and (ii) separating and new lone parents since the service became operational; and what consideration she has given to possible enhancements to the service. [300981 ]

**Helen Goodman:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures have been taken by *(a)* her Department *(b)* Jobcentre Plus *(c)* the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission (CMEC) and *(d)* other relevant bodies to promote the services of CMEC and to develop the information and support available through the Child Maintenance Options service to (i) parents already using the CSA and (ii) separating and new lone parents since the service became operational; and what consideration she has given to possible enhancements to the service. [300981]

The Commission is working with a number of organisations, including Jobcentre Plus and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, to promote a number of services it offers. These include:

Jobcentre Plus, which, upon first contact with a client, will send a leaflet, which introduces the Child Maintenance Options service, to those who have registered a child maintenance interest. They will also ask the client if they wish to be referred to the service.

Those who agree, have their contact details passed on to Child Maintenance Options, which will then contact them to discuss their child maintenance issue.

HM Revenue & Customs, which also refers newly separated parents to the Child Maintenance Options service when a client registers a change in circumstances for tax credit entitlements.

The Commission is working closely with the Department forl Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to build awareness of financial responsibility. DCSF has launched a 'Separating Families' initiative to co-ordinate services provided for separated and separating parents and we have been engaging with them to ensure that information on child maintenance is included. This initiative is being piloted in ten local areas across the country.

We are working closely with the Local Strategic Partnership in Nottingham to promote our services. Information on Child Maintenance Options has been circulated throughout children's centres. Additionally, two 45 minute lesson plans are being included in the 'do you want to be in my position' teaching pack on sex and relationships education. This pack is being piloted in the Nottingham University Samworth Academy.

We are exploring ways in which we can engage with health service professionals, through the Department of Health, particularly midwives and health visitors who are well placed to discuss child maintenance issues with new parents. We are also working with the Financial Services Authority to ensure that its financial education products stress the importance of financial responsibility, and set out the Commission's services.

We are also examining ways to engage with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Until now, the focus on the promotion of the Child Maintenance Options service has been on separating and new lone parents, particularly those claiming benefits and those whose family and friends may influence their behaviour. We hope this will help to foster collaboration and encourage the establishment of arrangements at the earliest opportunity. In July 2009, we successfully carried out a test promotional campaign in the Midlands region to promote the service.

The results of the test have been very encouraging and headline results show a 56 per cent increase in calls to the service and a 103 per cent increase in website visits during the 12 week period of the campaign. Of those responding, we estimate that 65 per cent were parents with care, 22 per cent non-resident parents and 13 per cent friends and family. This supports our decision to launch the campaign nationally, from January 2010, to promote awareness of and encourage demand for the Child Maintenance Options service on a larger scale.

The Commission is taking a number of steps to consider whether possible enhancements could be made to improve the service further.

A strategic review of the Child Maintenance Options service has recently been completed and some key stakeholders, including Gingerbread and Relate, were invited to an open forum to discuss our plans for the future. Some of these plans include testing a range of service enhancements in the early part of next year to establish which-are the most effective in helping customers to establish a maintenance arrangement that works for them.

There are a number of research and evaluation programmes being used among current and potential customers to enhance the information and guidance which the service offers, and to develop further the processes of referrals from other government organisations.

The Commission will continue to evaluate each activity on an ongoing basis to inform future strategy.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Cold Weather Payments

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to inform pensioners not registered for pension credit of their entitlement to cold weather payments. [312400]

**Helen Goodman:** As this group of pensioners would not be eligible to receive a cold weather payment it would be inappropriate to target publicity towards this group.

Customers eligible for cold weather payments are those in receipt of pension credit or income-related employment and support allowance that includes a work-related activity or support component. Those in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance in the assessment phase are also eligible if they have a pensioner or disability premium included in their benefit or they have a child who is disabled or under the age of five in the family.

The Government are committed to ensuring pensioners receive the support they are entitled to. The claim process has been simplified and since November 2008 claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit, made over the phone with pension credit, can be forwarded directly to the local authority without the need for a signed claim form.

Targeted regional take-up campaigns are being rolled out in selected regions, based on partnership working. The new campaign is designed to engage with the local pensioner population, by using channels of communication and working with organisations that they are likely to be familiar with and using regional media to support targeted communications and raise awareness among friends and family.

The Pensions Disability and Carers Service uses business triggers in Pension Centres to help ensure those who may be entitled to pension credit claim it. Customer advisers will discuss making a pension credit application with those who may be eligible when a customer makes a claim to state pension, turns 60 years of age or informs the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service of a significant change in their circumstances.

The Pension Disability and Carers Service also conducts around 13,000 home visits a week for vulnerable customers to ensure they are receiving the benefits they are entitled to, such as pension credit and attendance allowance. They have established joint Working Partnerships, which are either live or at the implementation stage, with all 203 primary tier local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. These partnerships enable the Pension Disability and Carers Service, local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide a single point of access to social care and benefit entitlement.

Also, we are planning a small pilot in 2010 which is designed to investigate the viability of making better use of the data currently held by DWP to improve pension credit take-up. The pilot will involve making awards of pension credit to a sample group of pensioners without them first having made a claim. During the course of the pilot, each award will be for a period of 42 weeks, and will be based on information we already hold. At the end of the pilot there will be a thorough investigation. This should provide evidence which could help inform future policy development in the area of benefit take-up.

## Crisis Loans

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans were made in each social services authority area in England in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and at what cost in each of those years. [313803]

**Helen Goodman:** The information is not available.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312547]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested on new furnishings and new vehicles is provided in the table.

Works of art displayed in the Department for Work and Pensions are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Cost of new furnishings*[1] | *Cost of new vehicles*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5.0 | 0.008 |
| 2008-09 | 4.3 | [3]— |

[1] The provision of furnishings is for approximately 100,000 staff in 1,000 buildings and includes desks, chairs and other office furnishings.

[2] The figures provided for the cost of new vehicles represent capital spend. The Department changed from purchasing to leasing vehicles in August 2007.

[3] The DWP moved from outright purchase of vehicles to leasing in 2007. The overall cost of the vehicle fleet was £9.992 million. However, this cost includes charges for all vehicles, service and maintenance charges, Road Fund Licence and accident management services etc.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to callers to her Department's telephone helplines with the prefix of *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0844 in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [313468]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]*: The cost of calls to the Department's 0845 numbers will vary according to each service provider, who will determine their own costs. BT landlines charge the lowest tariff and 70 per cent. of DWP callers do so from a BT landline. BT provide free 0845 calls if the call is made within the individual caller's call plan. The cost of calls to 0845 numbers from mobile phones will also vary according to which mobile operator a customer uses.

It would not, therefore, be possible to determine the cost of calls to the Department's 0845 telephone numbers.

The Department does not use 0844 telephone numbers.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department has made of the compliance of the benefits application process for employment and support allowance with disability discrimination legislation. [310930]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Jobcentre Plus conducted an Equality Impact Assessment of employment and support allowance prior to its introduction in October 2008. This included the process for benefit applications. The screening stage of the assessment concluded that the introduction of employment and support allowance is not likely to discriminate unlawfully or have an unfair effect on particular groups of people.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Mentally Ill

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of employment and support allowance claimants with mental health problems scored enough points to be considered unable to work in 2009. [313319]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is not available at the moment. Data will become available in the near future.

### Employment Schemes: Young People

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many places the Government have made available under the Young Person's Guarantee excluding those from the Future Jobs Fund; and if she will make a statement. [312871]

**Jim Knight:** The Young Person's Guarantee went live on 25 of January and therefore we have no figures of places to date. However, we will make sufficient places available to ensure all eligible young people are delivered the Young Person's Guarantee through a combination of the initiatives in Backing Young Britain, the existing 6 Month Offer, the Future Jobs Fund, Routes into Work, training and the Community Task Force, which will underpin the offer. We have designed the Community Task Force procurement to offer the necessary flexibility to respond to changing volumes and demand for places. The information on numbers of young people participating is not available as DWP does not project unemployment.

The Young Persons Guarantee places will be demand led and all young people claiming past six months will be guaranteed a job, work-focused training, or work experience. A personal adviser will work with them to create a personalised back to work plan, ensuring they receive the most appropriate help to return to work quickly.

### Flexible Working: Parents

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents of young children have requested flexible working in *(a)* each region and *(b)* Norwich, North constituency since the Employment Act 2002 came into force. [301695]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

The proportion of employees with children (under 16 years old) who have requested to work flexibly and the acceptance rate for these requests by region and nation in Great Britain are provided in the following table. These figures are from the Flexible Working Survey (2005) and information is not available for the Norwich, North constituency.

The new employment rights introduced on April 2003 gave parents of children under six and disabled children under 18 the right to request flexible working, this was extended to carers in April 2007 and parents of children aged 16 and under in April 2009. The Flexible Working Survey was conducted in January 2005 and respondents were asked to consider whether they made a request to their current employer in the last two years. BIS' Work Life Balance Survey (2006) and EHRC's YouGov Survey of Parents' Attitudes to Work, Care and Family Life (2008) provide more recent information on requests to work flexibly, but cannot provide robust data by region due to their smaller sample sizes.

*Requests to work flexibly over last two years, employees with children*

| | Employees with children (under 16) requests for flexible working | Percentage Acceptance (fully and partially) |
|---|---|---|
| Great Britain | 19 | 85 |
| England | 19 | 85 |
| North East | 20 | [1]— |
| North West | [1]— | 89 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 19 | 73 |
| East Midlands | [1]— | [1]— |
| West Midlands | 13 | [1]— |
| East of England | [1]— | [1]— |
| London | 25 | 90 |
| South East | 18 | 81 |
| South West | 27 | 83 |
| Wales | [1]— | [1]— |
| Scotland | 19 | 88 |

[1] Reliable figures are not available due to small sample sizes.

*Source:*

Flexible Working Employee Survey 2005

## Institution of Occupational Safety and Health: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive has provided to the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health in 2009-10. [311786]

**Jonathan Shaw:** To date, DWP has not provided any funding to the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) in the financial year 2009-10.

To date, HSE has not provided any direct funding to IOSH in financial year 2009-10.

HSE is funding a feasibility study by the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health (CIEH) and IOSH on an accreditation system for health and safety professionals. HSE's contract is with CIEH, which will receive £42,000. CIEH will pay IOSH for the work that it carries out on the project.

## New Deal for Young People: Salford

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in the City of Salford have participated in the New Deal for Young People in each year since its introduction. [311670]

**Jim Knight:** The available information can be found in the following table:

*New deal for young people—starters (spells): Salford parliamentary constituency, time series by year of starting the new deal*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 420 |
| 1999 | 420 |
| 2000 | 340 |
| 2001 | 290 |
| 2002 | 280 |
| 2003 | 390 |
| 2004 | 320 |
| 2005 | 300 |
| 2006 | 290 |
| 2007 | 450 |
| 2008 | 440 |
| 2009 | 350 |
| Total | 4,280 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The latest new deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new jobseeker's regime and flexible new deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).
3. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
4. The new deal for young people pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
5. Latest data are to August 2009.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

## New Deal Schemes: Nottingham

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Nottingham, North constituency have been assisted into work through the New Deal since 1997. [308296]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is in the following table:

*New Deal—Jobs (spells) jobs gained: Nottingham North parliamentary constituency*

| | Total number of jobs gained |
|---|---|
| 1997 | — |

*New Deal—Jobs (spells) jobs gained: Nottingham North parliamentary constituency*

| | Total number of jobs gained |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 180 |
| 1999 | 660 |
| 2000 | 710 |
| 2001 | 660 |
| 2002 | 760 |
| 2003 | 760 |
| 2004 | 870 |
| 2005 | 730 |
| 2006 | 650 |
| 2007 | 690 |
| 2008 | 550 |
| 2009 | 190 |
| Total | 7,410 |

*Notes*:
1. '—' is Nil or Negligible.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
3. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).
4. Time series is the calendar year that the job was gained. Latest data are to May 2009.
5. Total number of jobs gained refers to the sum of all jobs (spells) obtained through New Deal for Young People, New Deal for 25+, New Deal for Young Parents, New Deal for Disabled People, New Deal for 50+ and New Deal for Partners.
6. Spells are not available for New Deal 50+ and New Deal for Partners so individual level data are used.
7. An error has been discovered in the numbers gaining a job through New Deal 50 Plus. This problem affects numbers from 2005 onwards where monthly jobs gained are overstated. The level of the overstatement rises gradually from 1 per cent. in early 2005 to around 13 per cent. for the most up to date numbers. Due to data processing methodology, other New Deals will be affected by less than 1 per cent. when this error is resolved. This issue will be corrected in the next release of statistics on 17 February.
*Source*:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

## New Deal Schemes: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Torbay constituency have received assistance through New Deal schemes in each year since 1997. [312862]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is in the following table:

*Total number of Starts to New Deals[1] in Torbay*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997 | * |
| 1998 | 640 |
| 1999 | 1,040 |
| 2000 | 940 |
| 2001 | 860 |
| 2002 | 1,050 |
| 2003 | 1,040 |
| 2004 | 1,470 |
| 2005 | 850 |
| 2006 | 910 |
| 2007 | 1,050 |
| 2008 | 950 |
| 2009 | 490 |
| Total | 11,290 |

[1] Some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
*Notes:*
1. Definitions and conventions: "—" nil or negligible; "*" not applicable. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).
3. Spells are not available for New Deal 50 plus and New Deal for Partners so individual level data is used instead. Spells data is used for New Deal for Young People, New Deal for 25 plus New Deal for Lone Parents, New Deal for Disabled People.
4. "Time Series—year of starting". The calendar year of starting New Deal. Latest data is to August 2009.
5. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
6. The New Deal for 25 plus programme was introduced in July 1998.
7. The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998.
8. The New Deal for Disabled People was introduced in July 2001.
9. Data on New Deal 50 plus is available from January 2004 (programme was introduced in April 2000).
10. Data for New Deal for Partners is available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

## Pension Credit: Fraud

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the sum overspent on pension credit between April 2008 and March 2009 was attributable to fraudulent claims; and what steps she plans to take to change the pension credit application process to prevent such claims. [310972]

**Helen Goodman:** In 2008-09, 28 per cent. of pension credit overpayments were a result of fraud.

In 2009-10 we have strengthened the pension credit application process by ensuring that claims in high-risk categories are selected for further scrutiny.

## Pensions Act 2008

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department made of the effects on competition of the decision to implement the provisions of the Pensions Act 2008 over a four year period. [314266]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The challenge of implementing the workplace pension reforms contained in Part 1 of the Pensions Act 2008 is unprecedented with over 1 million employers and over 10 million people affected.

In order to deliver the workplace pension reforms successfully, we are intending to stage in the automatic enrolment duties over a four year period, starting with large employers, medium and then small.

Inevitably, staging of employers by size can affect the ability of employers to compete with each other in the short-term. This is because some employers will face the cost of administering the reforms and contributing to their employees' pensions sooner than employers staged later. The extent to which implementation affects employers' ability to compete will depend on: how employers choose to cope with the reforms (e.g. increase prices, reduce wages, reduce profits) and the level of competition between firms staged at different times.

If, for instance, employers who are staged in earlier cope with the cost of the reforms by increasing prices then they will experience a price differential from competitors who are staged in later.

We considered a number of approaches to staging, including segmenting employers by random selection, by industry type or by geographical region. We believe that staging by size offers the best balance of maximising deliverability while minimising employer burdens and competition impacts.

We believe that any impacts on competition will be short-term and outweighed by the overall positive benefits of our approach. To further minimise competition issues we are also ensuring that employers will be required to contribute 1 per cent. of qualifying earnings throughout the staging period, before all employers move, at the same time, to 2 per cent. contributions, then 3 per cent.

Table 1 shows the estimated average additional contribution cost per firm during the staging period for different firm sizes. It can be used to quantify the competition impact between firms. The longer the difference in staging between firms that actively compete with each other, the greater the difference in the contribution costs they face. For instance, a small firm staged in 12 months before another small firm that it actively competes with will face approximately £960 more in contribution costs than the firm that is staged later[1].

[1] This is the cost of 12 months of additional contribution costs for large firms based on a £80 monthly cost.

*Average additional contribution costs by firm size*

| | *(£ monthly)* |
|---|---|
| Large firms (250 + employees) | 5,340 |
| Medium firms (50-249 employees) | 615 |
| Small firms (5-49 employees) | 80 |
| Micro firms (1-4 employers) | 15 |

*Notes:*
Figures are expressed in 2009-10 earnings and prices and are rounded to the nearest £5.
*Source:*
DWP modelling.

## Poverty: Children

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland who experienced material deprivation in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08 and (C) 2008-09. [313264]

**Helen Goodman:** Information on the number and percentage of children living in low income households in each region and country of the UK is given in the following table for periods where data are available. Regional data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates. Information for 2008-09 is not yet available.

Material deprivation and low income is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 70 per cent. of contemporary median income and a material deprivation score of greater than 25. Full details of the way scores are constructed are available in the public service agreement document "Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020". A copy is available in the Library.

*Number and proportion of children falling below thresholds of low income and material deprivation, three year average*

| | *Percentage of children* | | *Number of children (million)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country or region* | *2004-05 to 2006-07* | *2005-06 to 2007-08* | *2004-05 to 2006-07* | *2005-06 to 2007-08* |
| England | 16 | 17 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| North East | 20 | 20 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| North West | 19 | 20 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 17 | 17 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East Midlands | 17 | 19 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| West Midlands | 20 | 21 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East of England | 11 | 10 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| London | 22 | 21 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| South East | 11 | 11 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| South West | 13 | 13 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Scotland | 15 | 15 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Wales | 18 | 17 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Northern Ireland | 15 | 14 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

*Notes:*
1. The reference period for households below average income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. A child is defined above as anyone aged under 16 or an unmarried 16 to 18-year-old in full-time non-advanced education.
3. Information on households in low income and material deprivation is available only from 2004-05.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. The HBAI is available in the Library.
5. Low income and material deprivation is one of the three indicators for measuring child poverty. The other two measures are absolute low income, which includes households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the median income held constant in real terms from a 1998-99 baseline, and relative low income, which includes households with incomes below 60 per cent. contemporary median income.
6. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. Small year-on-year movements should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
*Source:*
Households Below Average Income 2004-05 to 2007-08.

## Social Security Benefits: Disabled

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* disability living allowance there are in Newcastle upon Tyne; and how many of these have issues of mental wellbeing or mental capacity or require support for mental health needs. [313258]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is as follows:

*Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Newcastle upon Tyne local authority, and those with a diagnosis under the mental and behavioural disorders category—May 2009*

| *Newcastle upon Tyne local authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| All incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants | 14,110 |
| Mental and behavioural disorders | 6,490 |

1. Case load has been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data published at
www.nomisweb.co.uk
and
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
3. Mental and behavioural disorders claimants are classified under the mental and behavioural disorders category according to the International Classification of Diseases (version 10). To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so for example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on grounds of mental and behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. This does not include employment and support allowance as data by medical condition are not available.
5. The mental and behavioural disorders category includes: Unspecified Dementia, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, Schizophrenia, Persistent delusional disorder, Unspecified non-organic Psychosis, Manic Episode, Depressive Episode, Recurrent Depressive Disorder, Persistent mood disorder, Unspecified mood disorder, Phobic Anxiety Disorders, Other anxiety Disorders, Reaction to Severe Stress, Dissociative Disorders, Somatoform Disorders, Other Neurotic Disorders, Eating disorder, Mental and Behavioural Disorders associated with the puerperium, not elsewhere classified, Psychological and behavioural factors associated with disorders or diseases elsewhere classified, Specific Personality Disorders, Unspecified Mental Retardation, Specific Development Disorders of Scholastic Skills, Pervasive Development Disorders, Mental Disorder not otherwise specified.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey.

*Disability living allowance—cases in payment: Newcastle upon Tyne local authority and by main disabling condition—May 2009*

| *Newcastle upon Tyne local authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Total | 16,050 |
| Learning difficulty | 1,500 |
| Mental health causes | 3,200 |

*Notes:*
1. Case load: Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. Main disabling condition—where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
3. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. The Department for Work and Pensions recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, the proportions derived should be applied to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit.
5. Learning difficulty: Includes Down's syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, Autism, Asperger syndrome, Retts disorder, Learning disability—Other / type not known.
6. Claims with mental health causes which started before October 2008 were classified as Psychosis, Psychoneurosis, Personality Disorder, Dementia or Behavioural Disorder. After October 2008 finer classifications were introduced so that Mental Health Causes which started after October 2008 also included: Depressive disorder, Bipolar affective disorder (Hypomania/Mania), Mood disorders—Other/type not known, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder, Psychotic disorders—Other/type not known, Post traumatic stress disorder, Stress reaction disorders—Other/type not known, Generalised anxiety disorder, Phobia—Specific, Phobia—Social, Agoraphobia, Panic disorder, Anxiety disorders—Other/type not known, Obsessive compulsive disorder, Anxiety and depressive disorders—mixed, Conversion disorder (hysteria), Body dysmorphic disorder, Dissociative disorders—Other/type not known, Somatoform disorders—Other/type not known, Personality disorder, Munchausen syndrome, Factitious disorders—Other/type not known, Dementia, Anorexia nervosa, Bulimia nervosa, Obesity, Eating disorders not otherwise specified, Conduct disorder (including oppositional defiant disorder), Bedwetting (enuresis), Faecal soiling (encopresis), Psychiatric disorders of childhood—Other/type not known, and Severely Mentally Impaired.
7. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample (for main disabling condition breakdown) and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were eligible for *(a)* incapacity benefit in September 2008 and *(b)* employment and support allowance in September 2009. [313321]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the following table:

*Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants at the dates shown*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance in August 2008 | 2,632,000 |
| Employment and support allowance in May 2009 | 288,270 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload data have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. August 2008 is the month closest to September 2008 for which incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimant figures are available.
3. May 2009 is the latest quarter for which employment and support allowance claimant figures are available.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
5. The figures are for Great Britain and will include a small number of claimants resident overseas.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate

## Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants have been assessed by Atos Healthcare *(a)* since the start of their contract and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [311194]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department cannot state the number of individual claimants that have been assessed by Atos Healthcare since the start of their contract as data are not kept at that level.

The total number of completed medical reports carried out by Atos Healthcare in the period requested is as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1 January to 31 December 2009 | 1,003,189 |

*Notes:*
1. The data refer to all services including but not limited to ESA, War Pensions, IIDB.
2. Figures provided relate to both exam and paper scrutiny.
3. Figures include multiple referrals for individuals e.g. re-referrals.
*Source:*
Atos Healthcare.

### Social Security Benefits: Repayments

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 10 largest benefit debts owed to her Department by individuals resident in Scotland were in January 2010; and to what principal benefit each such debt relates. [314363]

**Helen Goodman:** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* Data on benefit debt are not broken down by geographical area.

### Unemployment

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wellingborough constituency is in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [314119]

**Jim Knight:** In December 2009, 4.2 per cent. of the working age population of Wellingborough and 4.1 per cent. of the working age population of the UK were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

Current figures for the UK are 450,000 lower than had been predicted at the time of the Budget.

### Vaccination: Compensation

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for a vaccine damage payment in relation to each vaccine were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted under the vaccine damage payment Scheme in each of the last 10 years. [313627]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department does not hold information on claims made for each vaccine for a vaccine damage payment, or which specific vaccines are linked to a successful vaccine damage payment claim. Claimants are asked to specify on the claim form all the vaccinations the disabled person received. However, as many vaccinations can be given in close proximity to each other it is not always possible to state categorically which vaccine caused the adverse reaction. Where a payment is made disability is not attributed to any specific vaccination.

### Winter Fuel Payments: South East

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of people were in receipt of winter fuel payments in each local authority area in south-east England at the latest date for which figures are available; [314549]

(2) how many people in each local authority area in south-east England were eligible to receive winter fuel payments in winter 2009-10. [314550]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on the number of people eligible for winter fuel payments is not available. Winter fuel payments are paid to most people over the age of 60. Over 95 per cent. of payments are made automatically without a need to claim.

The following table contains the number of payments made in local authorities within south-east England in winter 2008-09 (the last year for which this information is available). Information on what proportion of all people this represents is not available.

| | Number of payments |
|---|---|
| South-east Government regional office | 1,809,250 |
| | |
| *England unitary authorities* | |
| Bracknell Forest | 17,880 |
| Brighton and Hove | 44,260 |
| Isle of Wight | 39,560 |
| Medway | 47,250 |
| Milton Keynes | 34,160 |
| Portsmouth | 34,260 |
| Reading | 22,500 |
| Slough | 15,720 |
| Southampton | 38,060 |
| West Berkshire | 29,790 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 29,320 |
| Wokingham | 29,870 |
| | |
| *Buckinghamshire* | 103,130 |
| Aylesbury Vale | 32,270 |
| Chiltern | 22,270 |
| South Bucks | 15,430 |
| Wycombe | 33,160 |
| | |
| *East Sussex* | 143,090 |
| Eastbourne | 26,180 |
| Hastings | 18,560 |
| Lewes | 26,390 |
| Rother | 30,560 |
| Wealden | 41,410 |
| | |
| *Hampshire* | 295,110 |
| Basingstoke and Deane | 30,440 |
| East Hampshire | 26,670 |
| Eastleigh | 25,480 |
| Fareham | 28,000 |
| Gosport | 17,360 |
| Hart | 18,580 |
| Havant | 30,740 |
| New Forest | 51,870 |
| Rushmoor | 14,150 |
| Test Valley | 25,740 |
| Winchester | 26,080 |
| | |
| *Kent* | 320,190 |
| Ashford | 24,310 |
| Canterbury | 34,120 |
| Dartford | 17,280 |

| | *Number of payments* |
|---|---|
| Dover | 27,200 |
| Gravesham | 20,340 |
| Maidstone | 32,530 |
| Sevenoaks | 27,050 |
| Shepway | 26,670 |
| Swale | 27,910 |
| Thanet | 34,320 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 25,240 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 23,240 |
| | |
| *Oxfordshire* | 125,720 |
| Cherwell | 26,590 |
| Oxford | 20,130 |
| South Oxfordshire | 29,560 |
| Vale of White Horse | 26,430 |
| West Oxfordshire | 23,010 |
| | |
| *Surrey* | 238,320 |
| Elmbridge | 26,380 |
| Epsom and Ewell | 15,720 |
| Guildford | 26,680 |
| Mole Valley | 21,520 |
| Reigate and Banstead | 27,710 |
| Runnymede | 16,490 |
| Spelthorne | 20,640 |
| Surrey Heath | 17,450 |
| Tandridge | 18,850 |
| Waverley | 28,760 |
| Woking | 18,140 |
| | |
| *West Sussex* | 201,050 |
| Adur | 16,440 |
| Arun | 46,230 |
| Chichester | 32,990 |
| Crawley | 17,140 |
| Horsham | 30,970 |
| Mid Sussex | 31,320 |
| Worthing | 25,970 |

*Notes*:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Local authorities are assigned by matching against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source*:

Information Directorate

## Work Capability Assessment: Complaints

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints her Department and its agencies have received on the conduct of Atos Healthcare in respect of a work capability assessment; and what percentage of such complaints have been made by claimants with mental health problems. [313316]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the quarter September 2009 to November 2009 Atos Healthcare received a total of 702 complaints from employment support allowance claimants who were referred for a medical assessment. Data are not available to identify how many of the complaints were claimants with mental health conditions.

In the same period Atos Healthcare completed 118,084 medical examination assessments.

## Work Capability Assessments: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to ensure that the effects of retrovirus and other illnesses associated with myalgic encephalomyelitis are fully taken into account in assessments of claimants' capability to work. [314824]

**Jim Knight:** Entitlement to employment and support allowance does not depend on a person's diagnosis or on the treatment they are receiving. It depends on the effect their condition has on their ability to work. This is a fairer way than using criteria based on specific conditions or diagnoses, because the same condition can have very different disabling effects in different people.

The Department recognises myalgic encephalomyelitis as a real and potentially very disabling condition. Each person claiming employment and support allowance is assessed on the basis of the way the condition affects them as an individual. The work capability assessment looks at a range of activities relevant to work, and assesses whether or not a person can carry them out reliably and safely, over a period of time.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 2 February 2010*

## WALES

### Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what recent estimate he has made of the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313799]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office owns no residential property.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Register: Standards

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission which local authorities have yet to implement all three performance standard indicators in respect of electoral registration. [314898]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that those local authorities whose electoral registration officers (EROs) reported that they did not meet all three performance standards in the 'Completeness and Accuracy' subject area, following the 2008 annual canvass and published by the Commission in April 2009, are listed as follows.

The Commission further informs me that it will be publishing its second report on ERO performance against the standards in March 2010. Consequently the performance of the EROs listed as follows may be subject to change. The individual assessments of the EROs appointed by the local authorities will be made available on the Commission's website at that time:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Barnsley
Berwick-upon-Tweed[1]
Blaby
Blackburn with Darwen
Brentwood
Bridgnorth[1]
Broadland
Caerphilly
Carmarthenshire
Cambridge
Chester-le-Street[1]
Conwy
Copeland
Coventry
Craven
Crewe and Nantwich[1]
Derwentside[1]
Dumfries and Galloway
Durham[1]
East Dorset
East Hampshire
East Lindsey
Eastbourne
Epping Forest
Forest Heath
Gwynedd
Halton
Harborough
Harrow
Hillingdon
Hyndburn
Ipswich
Leeds
Mendip
Merthyr Tydfil
Newport
North Dorset
North East Derbyshire
North Lanarkshire
Nottingham
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Orkney Islands
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff
Ryedale
Sefton
Shetland Islands
Shrewsbury and Atcham[1]
Slough
Solihull
South Lanarkshire
South Norfolk
South Northamptonshire
Stratford upon Avon
Sutton
Tameside
Teesdale[1]
The Vale of Glamorgan
Three Rivers
Uttlesford
Walsall
Warrington
Wellingborough
West Devon
Weymouth and Portland
Windsor and Maidenhead

[1] No longer in existence and now part of unitary authorities.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many reports or papers have been produced or commissioned by the Scotland Office since 2007; and what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* subject matter and *(c)* distribution run of each report was. [313987]

**Ann McKechin:** Since 2007, the Scotland Office has produced or commissioned the following reports and papers:

| *Date produced* | *Paper/report* | *Cost (£)* | *Distribution run* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 2010 | Time Series Analysis of Government Expenditures and Revenues in Scotland | 0 | 0—web based only |
| December 2009 | The Scottish Budget Since Devolution | 0 | 0—web based only |
| November 2009 | Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom | 5,969 | 1,055 copies printed, divided between Scotland Office, Parliament and TSO |
| November 2009 | Tax—Background Paper | 0 | 0—web based |
| June 2009 | Scotland and Oil—Background Paper | 0 | 0—web based |
| June 2009 | Annual Report of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General for Scotland 2009 | 3,545 | 200 copies printed |
| February 2009 | Election Accounts 2007-2008 (Scottish Parliament, Scottish Devolution Referendum and UK/European Parliament) | 3,128 | 150 copies printed (50 of each account) |
| July 2008 | Election Accounts 2006-2007 (Scottish Parliament, Scottish Devolution Referendum and UK/European Parliament) | 3,116 | 150 copies printed (50 of each account) |
| May 2008 | Annual Report of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General for Scotland 2008 | 3,511 | 200 copies printed |
| May 2007 | Annual Report of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General for Scotland 2007 | 3,101 | 200 copies printed |
| May 2007 | Election Accounts 2005-2006 (Scottish Parliament, Scottish Devolution Referendum and UK/European Parliament) | 2,820 | 150 copies printed (50 of each account) |

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Terrorism

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former members of the (i) Police Service of Northern Ireland, (ii) Royal Irish Regiment and (iii) Northern Ireland Prison Service have moved from their homes after being targeted by (A) Republican and (B) Loyalist paramilitaries in each of the last three years. [314537]

**Paul Goggins:** It is not possible to provide figures in the format requested. Figures are, however, available for the number of certificates issued under the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings scheme. As the issue of such certificates is an operational matter for the Chief Constable, I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Basketball: Finance

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for *(a)* existing and *(b)* new facilities for basketball in (i) primary schools, (ii) secondary schools, (iii) universities and (iv) sports clubs in the last three years. [314300]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport England has advised that they have consistently invested in sports halls and leisure centres which offer facilities for basketball.

Over the period 2005-09, Sport England invested a total of £4,989,415 directly into basketball. The proportion of this used to fund capital projects was £2,004,415, and was delivered through the Community Club Development Programme.

Due to the nature of the Community Club Development Programme, which often delivered funding for multi sports purposes, Sport England is not able to break down the funding in terms of *(a)* existing and *(b)* new facilities specifically for basketball in (i) primary schools, (ii) secondary schools, (iii) universities or (iv) sports clubs.

Capital spend in schools is a matter for the Department for Children, Schools and Families, while the Department for Business Innovation and Skills is responsible for Higher Education.

### Cultural Heritage

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on its UK world heritage policy in each of the last five years; and how many of his Department's staff worked on the policy in each of those years. [314199]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* My Department has spent £103,478.13 on World Heritage Policy Review over the last five years. A breakdown of the direct spend and staff numbers working on World Heritage Policy for each year is presented in the table.

| *Financial year* | *Spend on world heritage policy (inc. VAT) (£)* | *DCMS staff numbers on world heritage policy*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | n/a | 4 |
| 2006-07 | n/a | 3 |
| 2007-08 | 94,734.38 | 4 |
| 2008-09 | 5,381.25 | 5 |
| 2009-10 | 3,162.50 | 2 |

[1] Staff involved have a number of other duties and have been involved with the review at different times

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315064]

**Mr. Simon:** In December 2009 the Department paid 96.65 per cent. of all valid invoices within 10 working days of receipt, and 99.44 per cent. within 30 days. It is not possible to distinguish small and medium-sized enterprises within this information.

The Royal Parks, the Department's agency, is not able to provide this information used its current accounting system. A new system is being implemented shortly, which will enable the agency to provide the relevant information in the financial year 2010-11.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313842]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department is not able to respond as no details are collected or retained relating to the future employment status or location of former employees.

### Digital Broadcasting: Radio

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to prepare people for the FM radio switch off in 2015. [314558]

**Mr. Simon:** There are no plans to switch off FM radio in 2015.

### English Heritage: Educational Visits

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* staffing costs of the English Heritage free educational visits scheme in each year since its inception. [312478]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: English Heritage introduced free entry for educational groups to its sites as one of its first actions on its creation in 1984. This is a core activity, embedded within English Heritage's total education spend, and as such does not have a separate budget allocation. The figures in the table are therefore for the total spent on education in each year. English Heritage advises that figures are only available for the years since 1996-97.

£

| | *Total expenditure on education* | *Of which: payroll* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 1,083,870 | 342,575 |
| 1997-98 | 961,479 | 265,498 |
| 1998-99 | 814,314 | 274,472 |
| 1999-00 | 972,013 | 361,021 |
| 2000-01 | 1,059,290 | 408,818 |
| 2001-02 | 1,101,696 | 436,462 |
| 2002-03 | 1,182,071 | 556,628 |
| 2003-04 | 1,416,768 | 659,582 |
| 2004-05 | 1,335,054 | 695,672 |
| 2005-06 | 1,445,448 | 630,006 |
| 2006-07 | 1,503,366 | 649,604 |
| 2007-08 | 1,429,012 | 698,122 |
| 2008-09 | 1,464,873 | 727,583 |

The most significant increases in the overall budget reflect efforts in 2003-04 to address the fall in free educational visits which resulted from the widespread closure of sites due to the foot and mouth epidemic; and in 2006-07 when its education volunteers and discovery visits programmes were introduced.

The increase in payroll as a proportion of education spend reflects English Heritage's strategy to have more staff—approximately 20 across nine regions—liaising directly with teachers and providing expert advice and resources for other initiatives, for example, working with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment on Engaging Places and contributing to major development projects such as that planned for Stonehenge.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free educational visits to English Heritage sites there have been in each year since the scheme's inception. [312488]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: English Heritage advises that the number of free educational visits to its properties in each year since 1997 is as set out in the table. This includes visits to properties managed through Local Management Agreements.

*Free educational visits to English Heritage properties*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 534,910 |
| 1998-99 | 523,213 |
| 1999-00 | 514,113 |
| 2000-01 | 513,292 |
| 2001-02 | 441,585 |
| 2002-03 | 478,499 |
| 2003-04 | 497,028 |
| 2004-05 | 475,866 |
| 2005-06 | 486,773 |
| 2006-07[1] | 481,000 |
| 2007-08[1] | 430,630 |
| 2008-09[1] | 445,320 |

[1] Any discrepancy between these figures and those previously published is the result of English Heritage's decision to change to using actual figures for educational visits to LMA sites rather than continuing to use an estimated figure of 50,000 a year.

The decline in educational visits is disappointing, and English Heritage has been asked to address this issue. In response English Heritage has been developing a programme of more interactive experiences, Discovery Visits, which require greater staff involvement and are now in place at 62 sites. English Heritage has also invested in new forms of educational engagement, including through online technology. In total more than 840,000 learners were engaged last year.

English Heritage is preparing a new education strategy for 2010-15.

### Museums and Galleries

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free visits to museums and art galleries funded from the public purse there were in *(a)* 2001-02 and *(b)* 2003-04. [314320]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: There were 30.2 million visits to DCMS sponsored museums and galleries in 2001-02, and 35 million visits in 2003-04.

The free museums included are: British Museum, Geffrye Museum, Horniman Museum, Imperial War Museum, Museum of London, Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, National Gallery, National Maritime Museum, National Museums Liverpool, National Museum of Science and Industry, National Portrait Gallery, Natural History Museum, Royal Armouries, Sir John Soane's Museum, Tate, Tyne and Wear Museums Service, Victoria and Albert Museum and Wallace Collection.

Similar data on the number of visits to all art galleries and museums funded by the public purse could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Public Libraries

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the most recent year for which figures are available. [312650]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Information regarding the number of public library openings and closings is not held centrally.

### Recreation Spaces

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the detailed assumptions and calculations are behind the total key monetised *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits cited in his Department's impact assessment of the Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) Regulations 2010. [313637]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 27 January 2010]:* the information requested is as follows:

> *(a)* The Royal Parks (TRP) intends to spend £2.7 million on essential repairs to the parking facilities and £200,000 on traffic calming measures. The costs of enforcement plus the installation of ticket machines and signs, falls to the contractor. As such, any calculations and assumptions will have been made by them.
>
> *(b)* The estimated annual revenue of £430,000 was calculated by TRP's parking contractor based on the effects of the proposed rate over seven day periods. Income raised from parking charges will be reinvested in the parks.

### Sports: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of Sport England's *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* lottery funding has been spent on operating costs in each of the last three years. [313864]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Sport England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Sport England to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of UK Sport's *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* lottery funding has been allocated to sports governing bodies in each of the last three years. [313865]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of UK Sport.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of UK Sport to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of Sport England's *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* lottery funding has been allocated to sports governing bodies in each of the last three years. [313866]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Sport England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Sport England to write direct to the hon. Member for Bath.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### British Waterways Board and Environment Agency: Finance

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans *(a)* British Waterways and *(b)* the Environment Agency has to reduce its budget deficit. [314097]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** British Waterways implemented an organisational restructure in 2009 which, together with other efficiencies, will divert up to £10 million a year to front line waterways maintenance. British Waterways is proposing that over the long term it also moves to third sector/mutual status. British Waterways believes such a move will help close the current funding gap and lead to a more sustainable future by growing income from other sources, volunteering growth, better local community engagement and delivering greater efficiencies.

In 2008, the Environment Agency published "2020 Vision for Funding our Waterways". This strategy document set out the resources required to maintain and operate its waterways and offer a specified level of service to those using the waterways. It concluded that there was a deficit between what was needed and its level of expenditure at that time. The document also identified how the Agency could reduce this deficit by developing and growing new income streams, reducing costs and rebalancing its navigation expenditure to invest more on maintaining waterways and less on service operations. In the light of changed economic circumstances the Agency is now updating the strategy so that it can continue to reduce and manage its budget deficit while providing safe waterways for the public to enjoy.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on options to dispose of waste that cannot be recycled. [314470]

**Dan Norris:** It is Government policy to manage waste as far up the waste hierarchy as possible. For residual waste treatment some form of energy recovery offers carbon and resource efficiency benefits over landfill. The choice of technology must reflect local circumstances, which will vary and local authorities need to be free to adopt such technologies as part of an integrated solution if they deem it appropriate. It is important that any plans for waste to energy facilities emerge out of local waste strategies, so that all options for re-use, recycling and composting can be explored first. The Government do not interfere with local authority planning decisions.

The Government believe local authorities should be as well informed as possible when making decisions. This is why they have produced guidance on the legislation, and established the Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team (ROTATE) through the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP). ROTATE's role is to spread best practice and advise local authorities on the multitude of waste collection and treatment options available to them.

The Government funded WRAP to undertake research (the 2007-09 food waste trials with local authorities) and advise local authorities on the best ways to collect and treat food waste. Both DEFRA and WRAP continue to fund and manage research feeding into the body of knowledge that underpins the advice WRAP give via ROTATE. In terms of effective food waste treatment the Government have been actively promoting and providing support for greater uptake of anaerobic digestion, a proven renewable energy technology, as the best option for unavoidable food waste that would otherwise go to landfill. The NNFCC (National Non Food Crops Centre), supported by DEFRA and DECC, launched a new web-based portal on 16 September 2009; this provides a first point of contact for information about anaerobic digestion for local authorities, businesses, farmers and the public. The portal can be found at:

http://www.biogas-info.co.uk/

The Government also established the Waste Infrastructure Delivery programme (WIDP) in 2006 to accelerate building the infrastructure needed to treat residual waste without compromising efforts to minimise waste and support increasing recycling levels. WIDP provides technical and commercial support and guidance to local authorities irrespective as to whether they are applying for PFI funding.

In addition to this, WIDP has published a range of waste sector specific guidance, to help all waste infrastructure projects. This guidance is building into a comprehensive procurement pack, one module of which is on options appraisal.

## Elephants: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Tanzania on its proposals on the listing of the African Elephant at the 15th Conference of the Parties Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna. [314708]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The UK has, to date, had no discussions with Tanzania on its proposals.

## Environment Agency: Photography

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on its decision no longer to offer payment to photographers whose photographs it uses. [314831]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There have been no such discussions between DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency has not issued any non-remunerated photography contracts and currently has four contracts in place with professional photographers. Each of these suppliers has gone through the tender process which is evaluated on both cost and quality.

Any photographer employed by the Environment Agency will be paid in full for their work. The Environment Agency has strict criteria on working with suppliers and takes its responsibilities seriously when it comes to paying people the right rate, on time, and getting good value for the taxpayer.

## Floods: Banbury

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce the start date of the public inquiry into the Banbury flood defence scheme. [314248]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Planning Inspectorate is currently identifying possible dates for the inquiry into the Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme. Once it has done so, DEFRA will write to all interested parties and objectors as well as publishing a notice of the inquiry date confirming the exact date, time and venue.

## Horses: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on levels of compliance in other EU member states with the requirements of EU legislation governing the long distance transportation of horses to slaughter. [314057]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Reports on levels of compliance with Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 by other EU member states can be found on the European Commission's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/inspections_reports_reg_1_2005_en.htm

Member states' reports identify the total number of welfare infringements found on farmed animals (including horses) that went for slaughter and on animals for export, but do not identify which inspections and which infringements relate to long distance journeys.

## Inland Waterways

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the state of each of the structures maintained by British Waterways. [314098]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Details of British Waterways' most recent assessment of each of their principle assets was made on 18 January 2010. Details of the condition of these assets is set out as follows.

*Distributed condition grades*

| | | *Number of assets*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| A | Very good | 389 |
| B | Good | 2,382 |
| C | Fair | 5,769 |

*Distributed condition grades*

| | | *Number of assets*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| D | Poor | 1,794 |
| E | Bad | 217 |
| Grand total | | 10,551 |

[1] Source: British Waterways

This shows that around 19 per cent. of assets are in D and E condition compared with 22 per cent. when the assets were previously assessed in April 2007.

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to how many canal restorations British Waterways has contributed in the last 12 months. [314100]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** British Waterways has contributed to six canal restorations in the last 12 months, namely:

Barge and Junction canals in Droitwich;

Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal;

Three Mills Lock, which restores the Bow Back Rivers to navigation;

The Liverpool Link (a new stretch of canal);

The Cotswold Canals (land at Inglesham);

The Helix Project.

In addition British Waterways has been involved to a lesser extent—and has provided ad hoc professional advice—to schemes such as the Montgomery Canal, Northern Reaches of the Lancaster Canal, Pocklington Canal, Bradford Canal, lower end of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and the proposed Lomond Canal.

## Natural England: Crewe

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the running costs were of the Natural England office in Crewe in the last 12 months; how many staff at each grade Natural England employs at that office; and how long the lease for that office has left to run. [314179]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Natural England occupies 32 per cent. of the DEFRA office building in Electra Way, Crewe. DEFRA has a ground lease on the building which will expire in July 2048.

Natural England's running costs (which are recharged to Natural England by DEFRA) for the 12 months to December 2009 were £629,000. They include rent, rates and utilities.

The 103 Natural England staff working at this office comprise:

| *Natural England Grade* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| Adviser | 84 |
| Team/Delivery Leader | 15 |
| Team/Delivery Manager | 4 |

In addition Natural England currently has 14 temporary staff in the building.

Natural England is an integrated organisation covering the whole of England. The Natural England staff working in the Crewe office (and most other offices) comprise a mixture of the regional team and the national delivery teams. Managers and team leaders working from the Crewe office will therefore also manage a number of staff who are home based or work from different offices.

## Nuclear Sites: Coastal Areas

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects on surrounding *(a)* coastlines and *(b)* coastal communities of sea defences constructed to protect nuclear sites. [314905]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has promoted shoreline management plans (SMPs) that assess the risks of coastal erosion and tidal flooding covering all the coastline of England and Wales, for the next 100 years.

These plans are prepared jointly by the relevant operating authorities using the latest coastal monitoring information, and look at the condition of all existing defences, including those constructed to protect nuclear sites.

They consider data on climate change, as well as other relevant research and reports. They examine the impact of coastal processes on the whole coast, including coastal communities, and are also a valuable tool for planning authorities where they need to take decisions on the coast.

A review of all these plans is currently under way and will be completed by the end of the year. SMPs are publicly available and include a full three month public and stakeholder consultation period.

On completion, all plans will be approved by the Environment Agency and will include an action plan to take forward future studies and works.

## Rights of Way

**Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases he has considered under paragraph *(a)* 3 and *(b)* 4 of Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; how many such cases he determined in each such year; how many such cases he determined within (A) six, (B) nine and (C) 12 months of receipt; and what the (1) shortest and (2) longest time taken to reach a determination was on such a case in each such year. [313378]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Consideration has been given to 354 appeals and 94 directions under paragraphs 3 and 4 of schedule 14 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) during the years 2007 to 2009.

*2007*

| | *Number determined* | *Within 6 months* | *Within 9 months* | *Within 12 months* | *Total within 12 months* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Directions under paragraph 3 of schedule 14 to WCA | 27 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 20 |
| Appeals under paragraph 4 of schedule 14 to the WCA | 68 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 11 |

*Shortest and longest time taken to reach a determination, including invalid appeals and directions.*

| | *Days* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Type* | *Shortest* | *Longest* |
| Appeals | 3 | 2,054 |
| Directions | 90 | 1,537 |

*2008*

| | Number determined | Within 6 months | Within 9 months | Within 12 months | Total within 12 months |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Directions under paragraph 3 of schedule 14 to WCA | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Appeals under paragraph 4 of schedule 14 to the WCA | 65 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 |

*Shortest and longest time taken to reach a determination, including invalid appeals and directions*

| | Days | |
|---|---|---|
| Type | Shortest | Longest |
| Appeals | 10 | 2,710 |
| Directions | 27 | 597 |

*2009*

| | Number determined | Within 6 months | Within 9 months | Within 12 months | Total within 12 months |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Directions under paragraph 3 of schedule 14 to WCA | 54 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 12 |
| Appeals under paragraph 4 of schedule 14 to the WCA | 31 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 14 |

*Shortest and longest time taken to reach a determination, including invalid appeals and directions:*

| | Days | |
|---|---|---|
| Type | Shortest | Longest |
| Appeals | 28 | 1,387 |
| Directions | 92 | 633 |

### Waste Management: Private Finance Initiative

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of financial viability of private finance initiative schemes for waste treatment plants; and if he will make a statement. [314369]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA constantly assesses the financial and construction markets to ensure that waste private finance initiative (PFI) projects are financially viable. In November 2009, officials from DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) hosted a meeting attended by representatives from 20 financial institutions following on from a similar meeting held with banks in February 2009.

Our findings show that credit conditions have stabilised relative to 12 months ago and that banks continue to show strong interest in waste PFI projects. The sector also continues to attract interest from a range of new entrant contractors into the waste sector.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many aeroplanes of each *(a)* type and *(b)* maximum takeoff weight departed from UK airports in 2009. [314914]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested for 2009 is not available. Information for 2008 (the latest year available) has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Aviation: Security

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what categories of air passenger will be exempt from full body scans when departing from UK airports. [314585]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* A written ministerial statement has been made on 1 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 2-4WS concerning the use of body scanners at UK aerodromes. As stated in this, if a passenger is selected for scanning, and declines to do so, they will not be permitted to fly.

### Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [314237]

**Mr. Khan:** The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from the Department for Transport for transport investment in Lancashire, within which transport authority Chorley falls, has risen more than threefold over the last decade.

Investment in Lancashire county council's local transport plan has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2004 and 2008, bus patronage per head of population increased by 18 per cent. and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 5 per cent. In 2005, Lancashire county council submitted a successful bid to the Department for 'Kickstart' revenue funding of the 'Chorley Connect' bus network. The £800,000 award facilitated the implementation of a fully accessible integrated network of routes in partnership with Stagecoach North West, including new evening and Sunday services.

Additionally, several major transport projects have been successfully delivered within the Chorley constituency since 1997. The £3 million Chorley Interchange was completed in March 2003, providing significantly improved connections between bus and rail services in the town. In November 2007, the £8 million Eaves Green Link Road was opened, completing the southern and western bypass of Chorley. The new road has improved access to local services by public transport and will facilitate further economic development in the area. The project has also won a number of awards for its innovative approach to minimising the environmental impact of the development.

It was announced in August 2009 that Lancashire county council had been allocated £3 million from the Community Infrastructure Fund to support the construction of a new railway station serving the Buckshaw Village development, to the north of Chorley. The new station will play a key role in supporting the sustainable development of the Central Lancashire Growth Point and is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

### Driving: Licensing

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what category of driving licence will be needed to drive a steam engine or steam lorry on the public highway when EU Directive 2006/126/EC comes into force in 2013. [314829]

**Paul Clark:** The new Directive will come into force on 19 January 2013. Those drivers who already hold a full car licence (category B) on that date will retain the right to drive a steam engine or steam lorry.

Drivers who pass a motor car test after that date will need to pass a further test in either a category c vehicle (over 3.5 tonnes) or category G (road roller) before they can drive a steam engine or steam lorry.

The Department for Transport is currently in discussion with the Commission about the possibility of an exemption from the requirement being offered to additional groups of drivers.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people paid their vehicle excise duty online in each of the last three years. [314504]

**Paul Clark:** The numbers of people who have paid their vehicle excise duty online in each of the last three financial years and between April and December 2009 is shown in the following table.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 6,212,399 |
| 2007-08 | 11,755,542 |
| 2008-09 | 14,868,486 |
| 2009-10[1] | 13,034,819 |

[1] April to 31 December

### Parking Attendants

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the employment of traffic wardens. [314506]

**Mr. Khan:** None. Traffic wardens are employed by police forces rather than local authorities. Chapter 6 of the Department for Transport's Operational Guidance to Local Authorities on Parking Policy and Enforcement, published in March 2008, includes advice about Civil Enforcement Officers.

### Parking: Public Holidays

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department provided to local authorities on whether Saturday 26 December 2010 should be deemed to be a Saturday or a public holiday for the purposes of parking restrictions. [314828]

**Mr. Khan:** It has not been necessary for the Department to issue guidance to local authorities on this matter. Local authorities' Traffic Regulation Orders will clearly indicate when parking restrictions are enforceable. Where they are enforceable, it is for individual authorities to determine how and when to enforce them, and to inform drivers effectively.

### Planning Permission: Merseyside

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to receive the Planning Inspectorate's report on the Mersey Gateway inquiry. [313424]

**Paul Clark:** The Inspector's report has now been received by the Department for Transport. Departmental officials are currently considering it.

### Public Transport: Tickets

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of savings to his Department of the cancellation of the implementation of smart cards. [314281]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has no plans to cancel the implementation of smartcards and has made no estimates of the savings that this could deliver. Following a consultation in the autumn, we published the Department's first Smart and Integrated Ticketing strategy in December 2009. The strategy has been well received and our research into the business case of implementing smart ticketing schemes is very positive. There are contractual commitments relating to smart ticketing in recent rail franchise agreements which mean that any cancellation would require these agreements to be renegotiated at cost to the taxpayer.

### Roads: Salt

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many tonnes of salt are held by each local authority in England. [311996]

**Mr. Khan:** A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House which shows how many tonnes of salt local authorities estimate they have available, according to the local authority salt audit returns the Department for Transport had received at 10am on 21 January.

These figures provide a snapshot of one day and may not fully reflect the regional weather, salt delivery dates, weather preparedness or distribution practices.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department issues on the minimum amount of grit to be spread on roads in icy conditions. [312217]

**Mr. Khan:** Gritting rates are a matter for each highway authority. The Department for Transport endorses the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice on highways maintenance management, 'Well-maintained Highways', which contains advice on winter service, including choice of de-icing materials and target rates of salt. This guidance was updated following the severe weather experienced in February 2009. In addition, the Highways Agency has developed its own guidance for the treatment of the trunk road and motorway network.

In order to help preserve salt stocks during the severe and prolonged weather over the last month, on 8 January 2010, the Secretary of State for Transport asked the Local Government Association, on behalf of local authorities across England, the Highways Agency and the Mayor of London, to reduce their daily use by 25 per cent; on 12 January he further asked them to conserve significantly more than that, by reviewing their salt spreading strategy and for local authorities to prioritise their local networks as necessary.

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of repairs to roads following damage incurred during recent severe weather in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Leeds. [314468]

**Mr. Khan:** It will be for each local highway authority to assess the damage to its network resulting from the severe weather, and to estimate the costs of repair. The Department for Transport will consider any requests for financial assistance that local authorities may make, in line with its established criteria; and, it will provide engineering consultancy support to local authorities formulating bids. It will be for each bidding authority to demonstrate that the damage is exceptional.

The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance of the strategic road network in England. The Agency has a road maintenance programme to ensure that carriageway maintenance is carried out at the optimum time, to minimise deterioration in the condition of the road and damage caused by severe weather, while delivering value for money. It is inevitable however that the recent severe weather will, in a small number of locations, cause a deterioration in the road surface condition. The Agency does not however separately identify or estimate the additional maintenance costs directly associated with severe weather. The Agency's experience is that such costs are likely to reflect only a relatively minor part of the overall maintenance expenditure. Safety related defects such as potholes are treated promptly as part of the Agency's maintenance policy.

### Slough

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [311980]

**Mr. Khan:** The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from the Department for Transport for Slough's transport investment has risen sevenfold over the last decade.

Investment in Slough borough council's Local Transport Plan has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2001 and 2007, the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 34 per cent., and bus patronage per head of population increased by 20 per cent. in the period 2004-08.

Slough borough council has worked closely with the Highways Agency to introduce ramp metering on the M4 around Slough. The project has contributed to reduced traffic flows on the motorway at peak times and provided road users with greater journey time reliability. Ramp metering is also contributing to the M4 Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Action Plan.

A Quality Bus Partnership has been signed with First Berkshire which has brought about significant investment by both the borough council and the bus operator. Enhanced services have been provided to the major employment sites at Heathrow and the Slough Trading Estate as part of the council's accessibility and economic development strategies and upgraded bus stops and shelters have been installed along the A4 London Road.

In June 2009, Slough borough council's Planning Committee approved the master plan for the £450 million 'Heart of Slough' project, which will lead to the regeneration of a 29-acre site in the town centre. The project is to be delivered by the borough council in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency and Development Securities and will deliver 1,500 new homes, 35,000 square metres of office space, a new bus station and measures to improve pedestrian flow between the High Street and the bus and rail stations. The bus station is due to be completed in early 2011 and will form a key part of the borough council's vision for Slough as a regional transport hub.

### Streatham

**Keith Hill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313392]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport (DFT) does not routinely hold transport statistics on a parliamentary constituency basis. However, the Department provides Transport for London (TfL) with a block grant to fund transport delivery in London. This grant has increased by just over 245 per cent. in the last nine years, rising to some £3.3 billion in 2010-11. Drawing on these and other resources, the Mayor is responsible for publishing, and through TfL, implementing a transport strategy for London, while the boroughs are required to publish local implementation plans which set out how they will contribute to the Mayor's strategy.

The additional funding that has been made available has helped deliver 1,089 million passenger journeys on the Tube in 2008-09, the highest ever. London Underground's scheduled service is now its largest ever, and in 2008-09 96.4 per cent. was run, the best annual result for 14 years.

Bus services in London have also improved. 2,247 million passenger journeys were made in 2008-09 and patronage grew by almost 47 per cent. between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

Concessionary travel continues to benefit elderly and disabled Londoners, and more than a million people currently hold a Freedom Pass.

South London rail routes serving Streatham have also improved. Southern have delivered a new fleet of trains, some of which operate on South London services, and the remaining rolling stock has been refurbished. Stations such as Streatham Hill and Gipsy Hill are being improved as part of the National Stations Improvement programme.

On the roads, national targets to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 40 per cent. and reduce the number of "slight" casualties by 10 per cent. (compared to the period 1994-98) by 2010 were largely exceeded by TfL by 2004, leading to TfL setting themselves new targets of 50 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

Various improvements in relation to cycling have also been realised across London. In May 2010 TfL will launch its cycle hire scheme and construction of the first two (out of 12) cycle superhighways is presently under way. One runs close to Streatham through Lambeth to the City and is anticipated to be ready this summer. TfL report that cycling now accounts for 2 per cent. of trips in London compared to 1.2 per cent. in 2000, and between 2000-01 and 2007-08 TfL's automatic cycle counters reported an increase in cyclists of 91 per cent.

### Vauxhall

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310328]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport (DfT) does not routinely hold transport statistics on a parliamentary constituency basis. However, the Department provides Transport for London (TfL) with a block grant to fund transport delivery in London. This grant has increased by just over 245 per cent. in the last nine years, rising to some £3.3 billion in 2010-11. Drawing on these and other resources, the Mayor is responsible for publishing and, through TfL, implementing a Transport Strategy for London, while the boroughs are required to publish Local Implementation Plans which set out how they will contribute to the Mayor's strategy.

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Concessionary travel continues to benefit elderly and disabled Londoners, and more than a million older people currently hold a Freedom Pass.

South London rail routes serving Vauxhall have also improved. Southern have delivered a new fleet of trains, some of which operate on South London services, and the remaining rolling stock has been refurbished.

On the roads, national targets to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 40 per cent. and reduce the number of "slight" casualties by 10 per cent. (compared to the period 1994-98) by 2010 were largely exceeded by TfL by 2004, leading to TfL setting themselves new targets of 50 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

Various improvements in relation to cycling have also been realised across London. In May 2010 TfL will launch its cycle hire scheme and construction of the first two (out of 12) cycle superhighways is presently under way. One runs through Vauxhall to the City and is anticipated to be ready this summer. TfL report that cycling now accounts for 2 per cent. of trips in London compared to 1.2 per cent. in 2000, and between 2000-01 and 2007-08, TfL's automatic cycle counters reported an increase in cyclists of 91 per cent.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Air Pollution: Nuclear Power Stations

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions since 2006 air exclusion zones around licensed nuclear installations have been breached; what action was taken in each case; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report made on each incident. [313120]

**Mr. Kidney:** Five reports of alleged nuclear installation restricted airspace infringements have warranted investigation since 2006. These reports are summarised in the following table:

| *Offence* | *Location* | *Legislation reference* | *Description* | *Outcome* | *Closed* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29 January 2006 | AWE Aldermaston | AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002 | Low flying over a nuclear establishment | No further action. No witnesses came forward | 14 March 2006 |
| 17 July 2006 | AWE Burghfield | AN (Restrictions of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002 | Low flying over a nuclear establishment | Insufficient evidence to proceed | 6 October 2006 |

| *Offence* | *Location* | *Legislation reference* | *Description* | *Outcome* | *Closed* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 January 2007 | AWE Aldermaston | AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002 | Infringement and low flying over a nuclear establishment | The pilot thought to be involved in this incident was reminded of his obligations under the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations | 23 March 2007 |
| 21 September 2007 | Springfields, nr. Preston | AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002 | Low flying over a nuclear establishment | Insufficient evidence to proceed | 11 March 2008 |
| 5 October 2007 | Dungeness power station, Kent | AN (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2002 | Infringement and low flying over a nuclear establishment | The pilot has been sent a warning letter | 31 October 2007 |

## Coal Gasification

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely contribution of coal gasification to UK energy needs; and if he will make a statement. [313188]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Coal Authority has recently granted six conditional licences for underground coal gasification (UCG) and is currently considering a further five applications. However, the technical and economic viability of UCG has not to date been demonstrated in UK conditions and it is, therefore, too early to judge what contribution this fledgling technology might make to future UK energy needs.

## Combined Heat and Power

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the potential financial contribution to the UK economy of the micro-combined heat and power industry. [313547]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government have not produced estimates of the potential financial contribution to the UK economy of the microCHP industry. Any such estimates would depend on market size, which would depend in part on the nature and level of support to the technology, as well as a range of commercial factors, and the nature of the manufacturing process for the different technologies relative to conventional boilers.

The Carbon Trust is carrying out field trials on micro CHP. An interim report was published in 2007, and final results should be published shortly.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313835]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008 bringing together staff from Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Each Department had a separate legacy appraisal system. The number of performance reviews carried out for staff in DECC under those legacy arrangements since that date are shown in the following table.

*2008-09 end of year performance reviews*

| *Appraisal system* | *Number of reviews* |
|---|---|
| Staff appraised using the BERR system | 440 |
| Staff appraised using the DEFRA system | 258 |
| Total | 698 |

Data relating to the previous years, i.e. 2004-08, are not available as the cost to identify the staff involved would be disproportionately expensive.

The number of staff identified as having a performance level that is unsatisfactory or below is not being disclosed so as to maintain individual confidentiality.

## Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313665]

**Joan Ruddock:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| | *Ordinary written PQs* | | *Named day PQs* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Average time taken* | *Number* | *Average time taken* |
| *Session 2008:* | | | | |
| 1 January—11 November 2009 | 1,387 | 10.1 | 352 | 9.0 |
| *Session 2009:* | | | | |
| 18 November—31 December 2009 | 315 | 6.3 | 52 | 4.9 |

### Energy: Business

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* Ofgem have taken to ensure that energy supplies provide fair payment terms to small businesses. [313111]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including supply to the business sector. In August 2009, Ofgem announced the introduction of new licence requirements to provide greater protection for small business customers when entering into a new supply contract. This followed the probe into the energy supply market during 2008.

The changes, which came into effect from 18 January 2010, require suppliers, among other things, to send small business customers a reminder at least 30 calendar days before their existing contract is due to end, and include details of the last point the customer can notify that they wish to agree a new contract or switch supply to another supplier, and limit the length of time of an automatic rolled-over contract to 12 months.

For customers on existing contracts the new rules will apply once their contracts ends.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 401W, on fuel poverty, when the definition of fuel poverty was last reviewed. [315191]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 defines a fuel poor person as one living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.

The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household is one which needs to spend more than 10 per cent. of its net income to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth (usually 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).

There has been no review of this definition.

### Fuel Poverty: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area have received assistance from his Department and its predecessors to meet or reduce fuel and heating costs in each of the last five years. [314588]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The following table shows how many households in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area have received assistance from the Warm Front scheme since the start of the current phase of the scheme in 2005.

*Number*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10*[1] | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Chelmsford | 74 | 217 | 278 | 388 | 227 | 1,184 |
| Chelmsford local authority | 117 | 329 | 476 | 693 | 380 | 1,995 |

[1] To 31 December 2009.

*Note:*

Prior to 2005 the scheme was managed by a different agent in the Chelmsford area, and data are not available.

Other households in the West Chelmsford constituency and the Chelmsford local authority area will have benefited from other Government schemes in the last five years. However, data in respect of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) are not available at the level requested, as suppliers are only required to report to Ofgem on a GB-wide basis. Similarly, data for other schemes and social tariffs are not available at such a low level of geography.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households were in fuel poverty in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2009. [314589]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006. It shows that there were around 2,700 fuel poor households in the West Chelmsford constituency and 4,200 poor households in the Chelmsford local authority area.

In 2003 there were around 2,300 fuel poor households in the West Chelmsford constituency and around 3,600 fuel poor households in the Chelmsford local authority area.

The methodology used for the 2006 work differs from that previously used, so care should be taken in comparing the fuel poverty levels in one area between 2003 and 2006.

### Fuel Poverty: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent which (i) were in fuel poverty in the latest period for which figures are available, (ii) have come out of fuel poverty since 1997 and (iii) have re-entered fuel poverty since 1997. [313516]

**Mr. Kidney:** In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 3,900 fuel poor households in Ashford, and 59,900 fuel poor households living in Kent. Corresponding figures for 1996 are not available.

Fuel poverty estimates are derived from a survey, which provides a means of producing aggregate data on numbers of households in fuel poverty, but does not allow for details of individual households moving in to or out of fuel poverty to be monitored, as a different sample of households are surveyed each year.

In England as a whole, fuel poverty has reduced from 5.1 million households in 1996, to 2.8 million households in 2007.

### Nuclear Power: Regulation

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of holding the public meeting on his Department's document on nuclear justification held at the Marriott Hotel, Marble Arch on 19 January 2010; and what consideration his Department gave to holding the meeting on its premises. [313272]

**Mr. Kidney:** The cost of the public engagement event held as part of the consultation on my right hon. Friend's the Secretary of State's proposed regulatory justification decisions on new nuclear power stations has not been finalised but is likely to be £12,000. This includes venue hire, event organisation, an independent facilitator, recording of a transcript for publication on our website and, where appropriate, travel expense for some delegates. A Government venue was not chosen on this occasion as a hotel offered more flexible options for staging the event.

### Renewable Energy

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage renewable energy; and if he will make a statement. [314483]

**Mr. Kidney:** We published the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) in July last year and this set out the comprehensive action plan that the UK Government have for achieving an almost seven-fold increase in the use of renewable energy by 2020. A copy of the Strategy has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government are fully committed to delivering the UK's share of the overall EU target for renewable energy and transforming our energy use at the scale required. In order to meet our targets, we need to bring about significant and dramatic change through a range of measures including the provision of appropriate incentives and the removal of financial barriers, and the Government are working to create the right conditions for companies to invest in renewable energy projects across the country.

The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) was also set up in July 2009 to take forward the commitments in the RES, including overcoming the non-financial barriers to deployment and the supply chain blockages and promoting business opportunities in the renewable sector in the UK.

### Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313586]

**Joan Ruddock:** No estimate has been made of any such costs.

### Warm Front Scheme: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many domestic properties in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area have received insulation improvements under the Warm Front scheme since its inception. [314587]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The following table shows how many domestic properties in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area have received insulation improvements under the Warm Front scheme since the start of the current phase of the scheme in 2005.

*Number*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009/10*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Chelmsford | 16 | 119 | 125 | 177 | 118 |
| Chelmsford local authority | 31 | 173 | 207 | 299 | 217 |

[1] To 31 December 2009.

*Note:*

Prior to 2005 the scheme was administered by a different scheme manager in the Chelmsford area, and data is not available.

### Wind Power

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the installed capacity is of the UK's *(a)* off- and *(b)* on-shore wind turbines. [313956]

**Mr. Kidney:** The current installed capacity for wind farms in the UK is 4,280.2 MW. This is made up of:

Off-shore—680.8 MW

On-shore—3,599.4 MW

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the daily load factors were at each *(a)* offshore and *(b)* onshore wind farm site around the UK in each of the first two weeks of December 2009. [313957]

**Mr. Kidney:** Load factors are defined as the average hourly quantity of electricity supplied during the year, expressed as a percentage of the average output capability at the beginning and end of the year. As such, these are only calculated on an annual basis, with the latest data for 2008 showing 29.4 per cent. for onshore wind and 34.9 per cent. for offshore wind. However, an indication of the daily load factor can be obtained by calculating total operational wind generation as a percentage of the theoretical maximum generation for all operationally metered wind plants. This is given in the following table.

Where this figure exceeds the load factors given above, the plants are operating at above average levels.

This data are made available by national grid and only refers to wind which is operationally metered i.e. around half of the onshore wind farms and none of the offshore wind farms.

*Electricity supplied by wind during first two weeks of December 2009*

| | *Operationally metered wind generation (MWh)* | *Percentage of operationally metered wind generation relative to theoretical maximum operationally metered supply* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 December 2009 | 17,586 | 47 |
| 2 December 2009 | 9,306 | 25 |
| 3 December 2009 | 6,966 | 19 |
| 4 December 2009 | 6,569 | 17 |
| 5 December 2009 | 13,221 | 35 |
| 6 December 2009 | 21,125 | 56 |
| 7 December 2009 | 9,432 | 25 |
| 8 December 2009 | 9,824 | 26 |
| 9 December 2009 | 14,020 | 37 |
| 10 December 2009 | 3,882 | 10 |
| 11 December 2009 | 3,632 | 10 |
| 12 December 2009 | 1,444 | 4 |
| 13 December 2009 | 998 | 3 |
| 14 December 2009 | 7,315 | 19 |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensees were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of selling alcohol to under age persons in each year since 1997. [313097]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sale, or allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) can also be issued for the offence of sale, or allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18, this information has been included in the table.

These are the latest data available.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts and Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for sale, or allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[2,3]*

| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Total PNDs issued[4]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 215 | 126 | n/a |
| 1998 | 311 | 158 | n/a |
| 1999 | 205 | 115 | n/a |
| 2000 | 132 | 56 | n/a |
| 2001 | 158 | 53 | n/a |
| 2002 | 170 | 105 | n/a |
| 2003 | 616 | 419 | n/a |
| 2004 | 861 | 608 | 113 |
| 2005 | 1,084 | 772 | 2,058 |
| 2006 | 1,199 | 854 | 3,195 |
| 2007 | 693 | 525 | 3,583 |
| 2008 | 459 | 366 | 2,824 |

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises—Licensing Act 1964 S. 169 A & B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S. 1, Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983S.3 [Sch. Para. 4(1)].

Sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 146.

Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147.

Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18—Licensing Act 1964 S. 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S. 17.

Persistently selling alcohol to children—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147A as added by Violent Crime reduction Act 2006.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The 'total proceeded against' statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] First year of PND scheme. PNDs were rolled out nationally on 1 April 2004.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Antisocial Behaviour: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has provided to tackle antisocial behaviour in Milton Keynes in each of the last three years. [313953]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Since 2004-05, as with all other Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), Milton Keynes was allocated £25,000 a year as a contribution towards funding an ASB Co-ordinator Post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund.

This pooled budget supported the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs). As of 2008-09 Home Office funding for local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour now forms part of the general Area Based Grant (ABG) paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government. This funding has been renewed for the period 2008-11 and it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

There is also wider funding which contributes towards the wider cross-Government strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour, including an additional £10 million announced on 20 November 2009 by the Department for Communities and Local Government to 130 local authorities to support the fight against antisocial behaviour. In addition, the Government are committed to diverting young people from crime and antisocial behaviour as demonstrated by our investment in universal services such as Sure Start Children's Centres, parenting support and positive activities as well as targeted work through the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP).

Home Office-led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour—for example the introduction of community support officers. Funding for neighbourhood policing (NP) (including police community support officers (PCSOs) is provided to police authorities. For England and Wales in total the 2009-10 funding is £332 million. Milton Keynes is within the Thames Valley Police area. Funding for Thames Valley for 2009-10 NP/PCSOs is £8.94 million. It is for police authorities to allocate resources, and for chief constables to deploy personnel (including PCSOs) within each police force area.

## Antisocial Behaviour: North East

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* parenting orders and *(c)* curfew orders have been issued in each local authority in Tyne and Wear in the last 12 months. [314009]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. The latest available data on the number of ASBOs issued cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007. These data are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007, a total of 426 ASBOs were issued at all courts in the Northumbria Criminal Justice System area.

Parenting Orders under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 and commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, the Criminal Justice Act 2003, Police and Justice Act 2005, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 amended Parenting Orders to increase their flexibility and widen their availability.

The data provided are from the Youth Justice Board. The Home Office collects data on parenting orders as part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships survey but this is not published by area. Prior to 2008-09, the Youth Justice Board collected the number of parenting orders issued by youth offending team (YOT) area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved and also Parenting Orders made in combination with antisocial behaviour orders, Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and Child Safety Orders. In 2008-09, the Youth Justice Board only collected data on the number of Parenting Orders imposed at court in relation to Parenting Orders imposed under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s8(1)(c), and Parenting Orders made in combination with Referral Orders, on the date that the court imposed the order on the parent during the reporting period. The available information is shown in table A.

Curfew orders with electronic monitoring were rolled out across England and Wales on 1 December 1999 following trials in seven areas. Section 37 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 allows the courts to impose curfew orders on offenders. Data for curfew orders are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. The available information is shown in table B.

*Table A: Number of parenting orders from 2000-01 to 2008-09 (latest available data)*

| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gateshead | 38 | 22 | 15 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 11 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| North Tyneside | 2 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Tyneside | 20 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 16 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 19 |
| Sunderland | 39 | 23 | 76 | 108 | 7 | 31 | 22 | 58 | 63 |

*Notes:*

1. The Youth Justice Board is only responsible for answering the question relating to parenting orders.
2. While we do not have data on parenting orders broken down by local authority, we do have it broken down by YOT area. We are assuming that the YOT areas in Tyne and Wear include South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Newcastle-upon Tyne, Gateshead and Sunderland.
3. In 2008-09, the Youth Justice Board only collected data on the number of Parenting Orders imposed at court in relation to Parenting Orders imposed under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s8(1)(c) and Parenting Orders made in combination with Referral Orders, on the date that the court imposed the order on the parent during the reporting period. Prior to 2008-09, the Youth Justice Board also collected data on Education Parenting Orders, i.e. those imposed under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s8(1)(d), and also Parenting Orders made in combination with antisocial behaviour orders, Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and Child Safety Orders.
4. However to simplify the comparability of the data between the different years, we have not included the figures on Education Parenting Orders. YOTs were required to report Parenting Orders made in combination with antisocial behaviour orders, Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and Child Safety Orders up until 2007-08, but from 2008-09 are no longer required to do so in order to reduce the burden of data collection.

*Caution:*

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

*Table B: Total curfew orders[1] issued at all courts in Northumbria Criminal Justice Area, 1997-2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | — |
| 1998 | — |
| 1999 | 1 |
| 2000 | 42 |
| 2001 | 100 |
| 2002 | 146 |
| 2003 | 262 |
| 2004 | 227 |
| 2005 | 197 |
| 2006 | 153 |
| 2007 | 98 |

[1] Curfew Order with electronic monitoring and Curfew Order without electronic monitoring. These figures do not include community orders given with a curfew requirement.

*Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

## Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against the person without injury have been recorded by each police force in each quarter since April 2006. [314330]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* Data are provided on police force level in each quarter since April 2006.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and the number of offences is given in Table A.

The data are in line with data published in the latest quarterly statistical bulletin on crime on 21 January 2010. The Home Office has undertaken a quarterly data reconciliation exercise with police forces covering the period for which figures are provided.

*Table A: Violence against the person offences without injury by police force area in each quarter since April 2006*

*Number*

| *Police force area* | *2006/07-Q1* | *2006/07-Q2* | *2006/07-Q3* | *2006/07-Q4* | *2007/08-Q1* | *2007/08-Q2* | *2007/08-Q3* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 4,305 | 5,068 | 5,099 | 3,115 | 4,193 | 3,865 | 2,914 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,254 | 1,034 | 941 | 797 | 864 | 831 | 833 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,454 | 1,425 | 1,461 | 1,233 | 1,574 | 1,453 | 1,325 |
| Cheshire | 1,943 | 2,072 | 2,124 | 2,005 | 1,910 | 1,813 | 1,809 |
| Cleveland | 1,798 | 1,929 | 2,000 | 2,086 | 2,150 | 1,834 | 1,668 |
| Cumbria | 1,031 | 1,065 | 1,021 | 903 | 1,072 | 1,152 | 1,062 |
| Derbyshire | 1,261 | 1,187 | 1,255 | 1,353 | 1,531 | 1,457 | 1,434 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,969 | 3,255 | 2,933 | 2,394 | 2,880 | 3,015 | 2,592 |
| Dorset | 1,732 | 2,011 | 1,530 | 1,386 | 1,670 | 1,828 | 1,521 |
| Durham | 1,266 | 1,255 | 1,168 | 1,137 | 1,024 | 960 | 928 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 1,247 | 1,117 | 944 | 794 | 818 | 859 | 754 |
| Essex | 2,584 | 2,697 | 2,693 | 2,896 | 3,610 | 3,054 | 2,930 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,609 | 1,473 | 1,696 | 1,478 | 1,439 | 1,470 | 1,357 |
| Greater Manchester | 7,725 | 7,209 | 7,705 | 6,832 | 7,050 | 6,672 | 6,602 |
| Gwent | 1,175 | 1,392 | 1,395 | 1,100 | 1,144 | 1,136 | 1,000 |
| Hampshire | 7,872 | 7,531 | 5,551 | 4,887 | 6,272 | 6,417 | 5,584 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,653 | 2,607 | 2,411 | 2,155 | 2,152 | 2,084 | 1,874 |
| Humberside | 2,923 | 2,658 | 3,014 | 2,804 | 2,723 | 2,821 | 2,494 |
| Kent | 3,392 | 3,664 | 3,384 | 2,754 | 3,190 | 3,338 | 3,029 |
| Lancashire | 6,944 | 7,132 | 6,441 | 5,515 | 6,088 | 6,434 | 5,959 |
| Leicestershire | 2,738 | 2,947 | 2,904 | 2,681 | 2,702 | 2,667 | 2,373 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,476 | 1,583 | 1,418 | 1,214 | 1,463 | 1,442 | 1,321 |
| London, City of | 151 | 200 | 175 | 168 | 180 | 158 | 133 |
| Merseyside | 4,262 | 3,377 | 2,604 | 2,653 | 2,821 | 2,772 | 2,543 |
| Metropolitan Police | 26,760 | 26,593 | 24,800 | 24,503 | 25,226 | 25,933 | 24,064 |
| Norfolk | 1,553 | 1,766 | 1,611 | 1,423 | 1,462 | 1,418 | 1,292 |
| North Wales | 2,120 | 2,499 | 2,341 | 1,833 | 1,900 | 1,810 | 1,688 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,081 | 1,180 | 1,170 | 1,144 | 1,367 | 1,349 | 1,178 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,132 | 997 | 1,088 | 1,144 | 1,348 | 1,364 | 1,326 |
| Northumbria | 2,868 | 2,924 | 2,613 | 2,406 | 2,280 | 2,279 | 1,949 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,075 | 2,263 | 2,293 | 2,258 | 2,438 | 2,458 | 2,084 |
| South Wales | 2,310 | 2,548 | 2,483 | 2,105 | 2,441 | 3,067 | 3,187 |
| South Yorkshire | 3,224 | 2,732 | 2,677 | 2,592 | 2,568 | 2,676 | 2,401 |
| Staffordshire | 3,211 | 3,601 | 3,235 | 2,457 | 2,751 | 2,694 | 2,406 |
| Suffolk | 1,403 | 1,511 | 1,337 | 1,308 | 1,384 | 1,552 | 1,384 |
| Surrey | 1,889 | 2,038 | 2,293 | 1,986 | 2,625 | 2,433 | 2,101 |
| Sussex | 4,292 | 4,565 | 4,020 | 3,607 | 4,174 | 4,020 | 3,612 |
| Thames Valley | 6,790 | 6,591 | 6,832 | 6,444 | 7,395 | 7,179 | 6,951 |
| Warwickshire | 919 | 837 | 964 | 857 | 966 | 968 | 910 |

*Table A: Violence against the person offences without injury by police force area in each quarter since April 2006*

| *Police force area* | *2006/07-Q1* | *2006/07-Q2* | *2006/07-Q3* | *2006/07-Q4* | *2007/08-Q1* | *2007/08-Q2* | *Number*<br>*2007/08-Q3* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Mercia | 1,629 | 1,839 | 1,698 | 1,679 | 2,062 | 1,780 | 1,618 |
| West Midlands | 5,142 | 5,438 | 5,601 | 5,030 | 5,155 | 5,173 | 4,976 |
| West Yorkshire | 5,658 | 5,282 | 4,850 | 4,485 | 5,219 | 5,071 | 4,439 |
| Wiltshire | 861 | 958 | 853 | 838 | 871 | 783 | 954 |

| *Police force area* | *2007/08-Q4* | *2008/09-Q1* | *2008/09-Q2* | *2008/09-Q3* | *2008/09-Q4* | *2009/10-Q1* | *Number*<br>*2009/10-Q2* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 3,114 | 3,868 | 3,871 | 3,739 | 3,623 | 4,216 | 4,266 |
| Bedfordshire | 625 | 790 | 724 | 775 | 877 | 831 | 875 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,421 | 1,400 | 1,391 | 1,220 | 1,213 | 1,385 | 1,552 |
| Cheshire | 1,896 | 1,846 | 1,868 | 1,769 | 1,761 | 1,762 | 1,624 |
| Cleveland | 1,795 | 1,649 | 1,464 | 1,217 | 1,410 | 1,202 | 1,111 |
| Cumbria | 933 | 1,009 | 996 | 954 | 884 | 984 | 893 |
| Derbyshire | 1,374 | 1,630 | 1,515 | 1,268 | 1,212 | 1,503 | 1,411 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,406 | 2,679 | 2,644 | 2,382 | 2,231 | 2,721 | 2,668 |
| Dorset | 1,406 | 1,456 | 1,450 | 1,273 | 1,251 | 1,431 | 1,333 |
| Durham | 938 | 932 | 999 | 919 | 886 | 908 | 815 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 645 | 758 | 788 | 780 | 672 | 819 | 843 |
| Essex | 2,690 | 3,259 | 3,217 | 2,947 | 2,823 | 2,992 | 2,938 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,306 | 1,287 | 1,424 | 1,265 | 1,107 | 1,124 | 1,012 |
| Greater Manchester | 6,106 | 6,239 | 6,340 | 5,644 | 5,382 | 5,777 | 5,408 |
| Gwent | 905 | 844 | 955 | 1,025 | 759 | 971 | 1,025 |
| Hampshire | 5,362 | 5,305 | 5,072 | 5,123 | 4,960 | 4,917 | 5,035 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,742 | 1,932 | 1,867 | 1,784 | 1,557 | 1,799 | 1,669 |
| Humberside | 2,231 | 2,389 | 2,515 | 2,408 | 2,022 | 2,196 | 2,157 |
| Kent | 2,913 | 2,970 | 3,267 | 2,989 | 2,915 | 2,666 | 2,644 |
| Lancashire | 5,773 | 5,812 | 6,147 | 5,621 | 5,658 | 5,801 | 5,672 |
| Leicestershire | 2,420 | 2,527 | 2,792 | 2,680 | 2,683 | 2,975 | 2,807 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,218 | 1,366 | 1,385 | 1,234 | 1,073 | 1,216 | 1,235 |
| London, City of | 112 | 150 | 152 | 123 | 85 | 124 | 116 |
| Merseyside | 2,794 | 2,974 | 2,822 | 2,445 | 2,560 | 2,615 | 2,643 |
| Metropolitan Police | 24,205 | 26,818 | 26,682 | 24,931 | 24,518 | 26,396 | 26,564 |
| Norfolk | 1,177 | 1,335 | 1,272 | 1,162 | 1,132 | 1,253 | 1,241 |
| North Wales | 1,506 | 1,570 | 1,826 | 1,780 | 1,664 | 1,870 | 2,159 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,130 | 825 | 1,083 | 965 | 939 | 894 | 943 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,156 | 1,160 | 1,162 | 1,186 | 1,110 | 1,267 | 1,341 |
| Northumbria | 2,004 | 2,302 | 2,397 | 1,949 | 2,011 | 2,068 | 2,089 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,871 | 2,148 | 2,005 | 2,007 | 1,636 | 1,689 | 1,773 |
| South Wales | 2,976 | 2,897 | 2,874 | 2,763 | 2,540 | 2,718 | 2,555 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,109 | 2,204 | 2,215 | 1,794 | 1,772 | 1,949 | 1,867 |
| Staffordshire | 2,218 | 2,547 | 2,726 | 2,428 | 2,345 | 2,523 | 2,541 |
| Suffolk | 1,191 | 1,317 | 1,394 | 1,398 | 1,313 | 1,403 | 1,446 |
| Surrey | 1,798 | 2,151 | 2,012 | 2,112 | 1,987 | 2,294 | 2,364 |
| Sussex | 3,414 | 3,261 | 2,987 | 2,900 | 2,763 | 3,237 | 3,102 |
| Thames Valley | 6,617 | 6,966 | 6,818 | 6,346 | 6,176 | 6,494 | 6,735 |
| Warwickshire | 936 | 833 | 825 | 618 | 655 | 657 | 727 |
| West Mercia | 1,701 | 1,951 | 1,896 | 1,637 | 1,593 | 1,735 | 1,773 |
| West Midlands | 4,815 | 4,947 | 4,852 | 4,564 | 4,284 | 5,322 | 5,034 |
| West Yorkshire | 4,074 | 4,432 | 4,342 | 3,849 | 3,747 | 4,026 | 3,827 |
| Wiltshire | 1,056 | 1,066 | 1,200 | 957 | 911 | 1,182 | 1,091 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures given in the table are taken from the database used for the publication 'Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2009' of 22 January 2010.

2. Violence against the person—without injury includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

## Crimes of Violence: Bookmakers

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent attacks on racecourse bookmakers travelling to and from racecourses have been recorded in the last 12 months. [314680]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313669]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2010, the Home Office took on average 10 days to respond to an ordinary written question and nine days to respond to a named day question. These figures do not take parliamentary recess into account.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

## DNA: Databases

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA records obtained by the police since 1997 have not been loaded on to the National DNA Database; and if he will make a statement. [312639]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Data on the number of DNA samples taken by the police were not collected centrally before April 2000. In the period 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2009, 4,986,306 DNA samples were taken from persons arrested by police forces in England and Wales. During this period, 4,544,962 DNA subject profiles were loaded onto the National DNA Database (NDNAD). Therefore, an estimated 441,344 subject DNA samples (9 per cent. of the total samples taken) were not loaded to the database during this period.

The figure of 441,344 relates to samples taken and not to individuals. A proportion of the samples will be replicate samples as some persons are arrested on more than one occasion and may be re-sampled. It should be noted that the figures for DNA samples taken and DNA profiles loaded onto the NDNAD are not directly comparable. The number of DNA profiles loaded onto the NDNAD includes profiles derived from volunteer samples, whereas volunteer samples are not included in the figures for DNA samples taken by the police. Profiles where the load date is unknown are not included in the profile loaded figure.

Not all DNA samples taken by the police result in a profile loaded onto the NDNAD. There are a number of reasons for this:

> Subsequent checks of the Police National Computer (PNC) within the police force may show that the individual already has a DNA profile on the NDNAD, possibly taken by another police force. Therefore there is no need to send a duplicate sample to a forensic supplier for profiling and loading onto the NDNAD. These samples will be destroyed within the police force;
>
> Some samples may be incomplete, damaged or contaminated so that it is not possible for a DNA profile to be derived and loaded onto the database and will be destroyed in the police force;
>
> Some samples will be sent for profiling but not result in a DNA profile; and
>
> Some samples will be sent for profiling but the DNA profile will fail to load onto the database if the related demographic data does not match with a corresponding arrest record on the PNC. These are investigated and may be loaded at a later date.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of names attached to records on the National DNA Database which *(a)* are mis-spelled and *(b)* have been attached in error; and if he will make a statement. [312640]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Data provided by the National DNA Database (NDNAD) Delivery unit indicates that between 1 January 2007 and 20 January 2010, it has made changes to eight names on NDNAD profile records following a request from the police force which took the sample. In addition, police forces on occasion may make spelling changes to names on the 'parent' record held on the Police National Computer (PNC). The PNC is linked to the NDNAD and following any changes to names on PNC, an automatic update would be forwarded to the NDNAD.

In the same period, there have been 330 sampling or administration errors that have led to records being loaded with incorrect demographic data—i.e. an error identified in up to approximately 0.019 per cent. of subject profiles in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009.

A number of procedures carried out by police forces, forensic suppliers and the NDNAD Delivery Unit are in place to ensure that information is recorded as accurately as possible on the NDNAD. These procedures are designed to ensure as far as possible that errors are not included on the database in the first place, rather than rectifying them once the profile has been loaded. If any irregular record comes to the notice of the NDNAD Delivery Unit, the record is suspended on the database pending an investigation—the outcome of which is that the profile record may be re-instated unchanged, amended or deleted.

There should be no risk of the wrong individual being charged with an offence since it is a Crown Prosecution Service requirement that, if a person is to be charged on the basis of a DNA match, there must be supporting non-DNA evidence available to be used in evidence. The DNA evidence is one piece of the information that the courts would require for a successful prosecution, as there might be an innocent explanation for someone's presence at a crime scene.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested for a trafficking offence were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* subsequently charged with a different crime, *(d)* subsequently charged and convicted of a different crime and *(e)* subsequently released without charge in each of the last 10 years. [313614]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Three people have been cautioned for trafficking for sexual exploitation between 2004 and 2009. Of those, one person (cautioned in 2006) was subsequently convicted for driving while over the prescribed alcohol limit.

### Money Laundering

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deposit-taking institutions reported possible money laundering offences to the National Criminal Intelligence Service in each year since 2003; and what proportion of such reports were made by the 10 sources reporting the most such possible incidents in each such year. [314014]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The National Criminal Intelligence Service ceased to exist on 1 April 2006, when it became part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). SOCA does not hold full information on the number of suspicious activity reports (SARs) submitted by sector before that date.

The SARs reporting year runs from 1 October to 30 September. The number of reporters identifying themselves as deposit-taking institutions in each year since SOCA began was:

248 (October 2006 to September 2007);

234 (October 2007 to September 2008); and

237 (October 2008 to September 2009).

The proportion of total SARs submitted by the 10 highest volume reporters in each year was:

66 per cent. (October 2006 to September 2007);

69 per cent. (October 2007 to September 2008); and

72 per cent. (October 2008 to September 2009).

### Opium

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many sites and over how many hectares the illegal growing of opium poppies was discovered in each year since 1997; and in which regions such sites were located. [313536]

**Alan Johnson:** No data are held as the cultivation of opium poppies is not an unlawful activity under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. An offence of production of a controlled drug is committed under the Act only if the opium is extracted from the opium poppy without such activity being authorised by Home Office licence for the purpose of producing opiate medicines.

### Police: Complaints

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of appeals to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) against police investigations of complaints were upheld in each of the last three years; and how many such appeals resulted in a re-investigation *(a)* undertaken by the police, *(b)* supervised by the IPCC, *(c)* managed by the IPCC and *(d)* undertaken independently by the IPCC; [314244]

(2) on how many occasions the Independent Police Complaints Commission has used its statutory powers under the Police Reform Act 2002 to require a complaint case to be referred to it which did not fall to be referred to it on a mandatory basis by the police force or police authority concerned in each of the last three years; [314245]

(3) on how many occasions the Independent Police Complaints Commission has presented a case against an officer at a police conduct hearing in each of the last three years; [314246]

(4) on how many occasions the Independent Police Complaints Commission has directed that a police conduct hearing be held in public in each of the last three years. [314247]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office does not hold this information. These are matters for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and they will write directly to my hon. Friend.

### Proceeds of Crime

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a privacy impact assessment was undertaken in respect of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (References to Financial Investigators) (Amendment) Order 2009 in relation to the proposal to extend the powers to local authorities. [313805]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** No privacy impact assessment was undertaken. Local authorities have had investigation powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 since April 2005 and have operated them successfully without criticism or comment. The order makes additional powers under the 2002 Act available to suitably trained and accredited financial investigators in local authorities, notably the power to seize and seek the forfeiture of cash which is suspected of being the proceeds of crime or intended for use in crime. Forfeiture is subject to an order in the magistrates court. The use of the cash seizure and forfeiture powers in the 2002 Act has not previously raised any privacy issues.

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on establishing rape crisis centres in London since May 2008; and how many such centres have been opened. [313538]

**Alan Johnson:** Funding for local sexual assault services including rape crisis centres is provided by the Ministry of Justice and Government Equalities Office not the Home Office. Details of the latest funding round can be found at:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=410635&SubjectId=15&DepartmentMode=true

A list of all rape crisis centres can be found using the following website:

http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/centres_show.php

### Robbery

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded incidents of robbery there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [313952]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Data are provided for Milton Keynes crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) for 2004-05 to 2008-09.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and the number of offences and rates per 1,000 population are given in the following table.

*Selected offences recorded by Milton Keynes CDRP and rate per 1,000 population, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence code* | *Offence description* | *No. of offences* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *No. of offences* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *No. of offences* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *No. of offences* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *No. of offences* | *Rate per 1,000 population* |
| 34A | Robbery of business property | 16 | 0.07 | 25 | 0.12 | 41 | 0.19 | 31 | 0.14 | 21 | 0.09 |
| 34B | Robbery of personal property | 242 | 1.12 | 265 | 1.22 | 302 | 1.38 | 264 | 1.17 | 277 | 1.21 |
| | Total robbery offences | 258 | 1.20 | 290 | 1.34 | 343 | 1.57 | 295 | 1.31 | 298 | 1.30 |

### Shellfish: Testing

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plan to replace arrangements for the safety testing of shellfish with alternatives which do not require testing on animals. [312690]

**Meg Hillier:** Yes. The Government are fully committed to replacing the current testing arrangements for biotoxins in shellfish with non-animal alternatives. The Home Office has been working on this matter with the Food Standards Agency which is responsible for the monitoring programme for algal toxins in shellfish harvesting areas.

For one group of toxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins), a non-animal method of testing has already been introduced to test mussels and accounts for more than 90 per cent. of all shellfish samples tested for PSP. Subject to review by the FSA of validation data, the method will be extended to additional shellfish species later this year. Another non-animal testing method is also being developed for lipophilic toxins (including Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP)) with the intention of having a validated method for testing mussels available for use in the monitoring programme by June 2011.

The testing arrangements are required as part of the EU food hygiene requirements for shellfish harvesting areas. The legislation specifies the methods to be used in testing and for most toxins the biological (animal) methods are specified as the reference method.

### Special Constables and Police Community Support Officers: Recruitment

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria apply in the selection of candidates to become *(a)* a special constable and *(b)* a police community support officer. [313122]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is responsible for police recruitment policy. The criteria for candidates to become a special constable are outlined in the NPIA's circular "Special Constables: Eligibility for Recruitment."

The selection criteria for police community support officers (PCSOs) are set out in the protocols for the police community support officer national recruitment standard assessment process.

I have placed copies of both documents in the House Library.

Each chief police officer is responsible for the selection method for the recruitment of special constables and PCSOs.

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether time spent *(a)* living abroad and *(b)* abroad as part of a modern languages degree course at a UK university counts against a person's application to become (i) a special constable and (ii) a police community support officer. [313123]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is responsible for providing an overview on vetting policy that advises police forces to obtain satisfactory vetting checks for all applicants to a police force in England and Wales.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has issued some further detailed advice to police forces, which sits alongside the NPIA policy, to ensure there is a three-year checkable history on all applicants including citizens of the United Kingdom due to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient vetting information from abroad.

The ACPO guidelines make provisions for those who have spent time abroad for up to 12 months or for educational reasons. Ultimately it is for the police force concerned to make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

Certainly applicants who cannot be vetted, will not be appointed.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of personnel deployed to Afghanistan in the current deployment undertook individual reinforcement training rather than full collective pre-deployment training. [314471]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, no armed forces personnel deploy to operations without being fully trained for the job they are required to do. Pre-deployment training is mandatory for all personnel. The quantity and nature of this training varies between individuals and units depending on existing skill levels and the role to be filled on deployment.

## Armed Forces: Discharges

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information is made available to the service personnel and Veterans Agency on individuals appearing before a medical discharge board; and if he will make a statement. [305035]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* The decision to discharge on the grounds of being medically unfit for service is taken by the relevant single service manning staff based on the recommendations of a medical board. If the limitations of continuing employment are such that personnel can no longer perform the unique requirements service in the armed forces requires then they will be discharged.

Prior to this process any individual who is considered likely to be medically discharged will be supported throughout by a designated key case worker. Furthermore, access to resettlement provision and housing advice can be initiated as well as requesting a provisional pension assessment.

A date of discharge will invariably include a period of time that allows for the completion of a resettlement package, annual and terminal leave, but the commencement of resettlement activity can be initiated as soon as it is considered likely that a discharge as a result of being medically unfit will be granted. Furthermore, where resettlement cannot be undertaken during service then post discharge resettlement can be approved which allows for activity to be undertaken up to two years after discharge. If resettlement cannot be undertaken by the individual due to medical reasons then the entitlement can be transferred to a spouse ensuring that at least one family member is able to take advantage.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency only become more directly involved when a decision to discharge is reached. A dedicated welfare support manager, local to the individual, will be appointed and can provide practical help and guidance not only up to their discharge date but for as long as it is needed after leaving.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to review the operation of the medical discharge system for members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [305036]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* We take the responsibility for the welfare of our service personnel very seriously and keep the support we provide under continual review. There are currently no plans to review the medical boarding process or the way in which recommendations made from this process are used to determine whether a member of the armed forces is either retained, re-trained or discharged.

## Armed Forces: Health Services

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel with each diagnosed condition each service medical board of survey *(a)* discharged and *(b)* retained in a reduced medical category in each year since 1997. [304875]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following table lists those numbers of service personnel that have been discharged as a result of being below the medical standard required for service.

| | *Naval service* | *Army* | *Royal Air Force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 386 | 1,062 | 232 |
| 1998 | 447 | 1,069 | 160 |
| 1999 | 445 | 1,148 | 178 |
| 2000 | 474 | 1,063 | 187 |
| 2001 | 397 | 1,034 | 185 |
| 2002 | 377 | 1,022 | 137 |
| 2003 | 308 | 998 | 251 |
| 2004 | 365 | 1,084 | 202 |
| 2005 | 389 | 1,047 | 207 |
| 2006 | 347 | 1,009 | 241 |
| 2007 | 332 | 977 | 227 |
| 2008 | 312 | 842 | 189 |

A detailed breakdown by category of condition has been placed in the Library of the House.

Information on those service personnel who have been awarded a permanently reduced medical employment standard but retained is not held in the format requested. Decisions on retaining, re-training or discharge are reached by the service manning authorities. However, even when a decision is made that is not to discharge—for example if the medical authorities consider that the condition will improve over time—the individual retains the right to be discharged if they feel their career will be limited. Furthermore, we continue to review those service personnel with a reduced medical employment standard and the employment limitations this may have. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to assume that all those with a permanently reduced medical employment standard would remain in that category for the remainder of their career.

## Armed Forces: Libraries

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements for the provision of libraries to the armed forces are required under Queen's Regulations; and what Library services are provided. [313618]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Queen's Regulations require that Service libraries are to be established to provide a range of books and information in support of operations, education, training, personal development and recreation for members of Her Majesty's forces and entitled civilians.

Library and information services are delivered through a world-wide network. This includes: education and recreational libraries, academic libraries, defence medical libraries, technical libraries, electronic libraries as well as specialist library services that are able to provide operational support and information relating to current affairs and those of a predominantly military nature.

As with all libraries, innovative ways have been introduced to reach out to the community. For those Service Personnel, and their families, where a library is not in local reach a full postal service is available which utilises the internal postal service and is free to the user. In some cases opportunities will arise to combine our library services with those of local authorities to mutual benefit, such as at Tidworth Leisure Centre in Wiltshire.

## Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many jobs formerly undertaken by staff of his Department have been outsourced to external companies in each of the last five years; and to which companies. [314630]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following table provides the number of MOD civilian staff only that have been transferred to external companies and organisations in each of the last five years.

| *Financial year* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *Total/headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *MOD (core)* | | | | | | |
| Transfers out due to outsourcing/ privatisation | 350 | 620 | 800 | 530 | 170 | 2,480 |
| *Trading funds* | | | | | | |
| Transfers out due to outsourcing/ privatisation | — | — | 1,040 | — | 10 | 1,050 |
| *Total* | | | | | | |
| Transfers out due to outsourcing/ privatisation | 350 | 620 | 1,840 | 530 | 180 | 3,530 |

MOD has outsourced and privatised a diverse range of activities in the last five years. This is reflected in the many companies and organisations that staff have transferred to. Although there has been a number of mergers and takeovers between companies in the period, based on the companies' operating name at the time, transfers have been made to:

Amey Lex
Aramark
Atlas
Babcock Defence Services
BAE
Bailey Teswaine
Bladerunner
BT
Carillion
City of York Council
Cornwall Airports Ltd.
Corporate Document Services
Debut
Electronic Data Services
Eurest
Fleet Support Ltd.
Fujitsu
Interserve
J&J Denholm
Lockheed Martin
Mid Kent College
Modern Housing Solutions
Plymouth University
Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust
Rolls Royce
Serco
Seven Trent Water
Sodexo
Soldiers, Sailors and Airman and Families Association
TQ Education
Vector Aerospace
VT
VT Flagship
Westland Helicopters

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313243]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

My Department manages its surplus staff by using a Redeployment Pool (RDP). This service enables those who are or who will become surplus to be given priority consideration for vacancies. Staff in the RDP usually continue working in their last directorate or are redeployed to cover short-term tasks. As at 1 January 2010, there were 1,525 employees in the RDP. Some 85 per cent. have been in the RDP for less than six months and only 5 per cent. have been there for more than two years. On average, staff spend six months in the RDP before finding a post or leaving the Department. The majority move into new jobs rather than take early release.

## Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many non-departmental bodies his Department is responsible. [314252]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Information on the number of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by the Ministry of Defence is published in the annual Cabinet Office report 'Public Bodies 2008', which is available online at the following link:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. 'Public Bodies 2009' will be published shortly.

### Ex-servicemen: Elderly

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate has he made of the number of former service personnel resident in the UK who are over the age of *(a)* 65 and *(b)* 80 years. [314384]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are currently 99,816 former service personnel aged 65 and over, resident in the United Kingdom (UK), in receipt of an ongoing occupational pension under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS). There are 22,071 aged 80 and over; this population is a subset of those aged 65 and over. Former service personnel with no AFPS entitlement, or who have not claimed their entitlement, are not represented in these figures as these are not known.

The latest data available are: as at 30 September 2009, there were 89,675 disablement pensioners resident in the UK aged 65 and over who were in receipt of an ongoing pension under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). There were 48,120 aged 80 and over, this population is a subset of those aged 65 and over. These figures provided have all been rounded to the nearest five.

Some former service personnel will be in receipt of a pension from both the AFPS and the WPS.

### Ex-servicemen: Health

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of former service personnel who have been diagnosed with service-related injuries or long-term illnesses in each year since 1992. [314386]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** It is only possible to identify veterans who have a health condition related to their service if they have made a claim and received an award under the relevant compensation scheme. The War Pensions Scheme (WPS) provided no-fault compensation for all ex-service personnel where illness, injury or death was caused by service before 6 April 2005. The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) which came into force on 6 April 2005 provided no-fault compensation for injury, illness or death caused by service on or after that date.

The following data, available only from 2002, provide the number of first time claims against these schemes as the best way of indicating how many personnel were diagnosed with service-related injuries or long-term illness in the time frame requested. They will therefore exclude ongoing payments through these schemes received by personnel diagnosed as suffering from in-service injuries or illness before 2002.

The following table provides the number of first claims awarded under the WPS by calendar year and by type of award. Ongoing war pensions reflect those who receive a regular pension. Gratuity payments are a one-off single payment, while nil awards are those that are awarded when it is accepted that a particular disablement is a result of service, yet no monetary compensation is given.

| | *All* | *Ongoing* | *Gratuity* | *Nil* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 46,545 | 12,140 | 23,290 | 11,115 |
| 2002[1] | 3,870 | 1,045 | 1,670 | 1,155 |
| 2003 | 7,330 | 1,965 | 3,310 | 2,055 |
| 2004 | 6,905 | 1,755 | 3,485 | 1,665 |
| 2005 | 6,820 | 1,760 | 3,515 | 1,545 |
| 2006 | 6,185 | 1,590 | 3,170 | 1,420 |
| 2007 | 5,450 | 1,485 | 2,770 | 1,195 |
| 2008 | 5,775 | 1,495 | 3,050 | 1,225 |
| 2009[2] | 4,215 | 1,045 | 2,320 | 850 |

[1] Includes January to September only, data between October and December 2002 cannot be provided in this type of breakdown.

[2] Includes January to September only, data between October and December 2009 have not yet been published.

*Note:*

As figures have been rounded to the nearest five, totals may not add due to rounding.

Between 1 November 2005 and 30 September 2009, there were a total of 1,995 individuals awarded under the AFCS who were not in service on 1 January 2010. This is broken down by year as follows:

| | *Awards* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 200 |
| 2007 | 360 |
| 2008 | 790 |
| 2009 | 445 |

A total of 195 individuals have been awarded under both schemes.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his predecessor had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer between 2002 and 2004 on the availability of funding for the purchase of military helicopters to be used for future services in Afghanistan; and what the outcome was of each request by his Department for funding to purchase such helicopters in that period. [314788]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** UK forces have been in Afghanistan since 2001 but the decision to take on responsibility for Task Force Helmand was not made until early 2006. No discussions were held between 2002 and 2004 with HMT about the specific helicopter requirement to support that mission.

### Military Bases: Colchester

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to declare any part of Middlewick Ranges, Colchester Garrison, surplus to military requirements. [314399]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* Middlewick Ranges is a fully operational firing range. Currently there are no plans to declare any part of the range surplus to military requirements.

However, as outlined in the Defence Estate Strategy 2006 (In Trust and On Trust) MOD land holdings are kept under continual review in order to take account of changing operational requirements.

### Military Bases: Fremington

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the future of Fremington Army Camp. [314626]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** In accordance with Government disposal guidelines and as there is no longer a Ministry of Defence requirement for Fremington Camp, the site will be placed on the Homes and Community Agencies surplus public land register. This will determine whether there is any requirement for the site by another Government Department or Agency.

If there is no Government requirement then the site will be assessed under the Crichel Down rules to determine whether it must be offered back to any former owners. If it does not, the site will be placed on the open market for sale by competition.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the North Devon district council on the feasibility of utilising Fremington Army Camp for temporary accommodation during construction of the Atlantic Array offshore wind farm. [314670]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The accommodation at Fremington Camp is at the end of its economic life. Nevertheless, Ministers or officials of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) would be happy to discuss the utilisation of the site with their counterparts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change, if the MOD was approached.

### Ministry of Defence Police: Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons he plans to separate the Ministry of Defence Police from the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency; and if he will make a statement. [314825]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are no plans at present to separate the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police from the MOD Police and Guarding Agency.

### Navy

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of the balance of naval power in the *(a)* Indian Ocean and *(b)* Pacific Ocean. [314793]

**Bill Rammell:** The balance of naval power in both the Indian and Pacific oceans currently leans towards the United States of America, although a range of nations in the region have, or plan to develop, significant maritime capabilities.

### Royal Hospital Haslar

**Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what price was the Royal Hospital Haslar site sold and to whom; what the acreage of the site sold is; how many houses, flats and other buildings are on the sold site; what due diligence was undertaken prior to the sale; what undertakings were obtained from the prospective purchasers prior to the sale; what other offers and indications of interest were received for the site; what the monetary value of the site was on his Department's accounts prior to the sale; and what limitations and covenants were placed on the site at the time of sale. [314354]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The Haslar Hospital site in Gosport, which extends to some 23 hectares and comprises around 75,000 square metres of buildings, was sold to Our Enterprise (Haslar) Ltd. in November 2009 for £3 million. The hon. Member will recall he met with me to discuss the proposals before the sale.

An Expressions of Interest campaign for the Haslar site was undertaken by Defence Estates in early 2009 and a number of bids were received by the closing date of 3 July, the details of which are confidential, for commercial reasons. The other bids were rejected either on grounds of insufficient detail regarding redevelopment plans for the site, the low level of the offer, or both. Prior to the sale the site was included on the Asset Registers of the Department at some £55 million based on the depreciated replacement cost of the site in its current usage. Such valuations are undertaken for accounting purposes, and are not the same as a market valuation undertaken for disposal.

Additionally discussions took place with Our Enterprise, with regard to the consortium's financial status and intentions toward the site's heritage assets, memorial garden and future maintenance. No limitations or covenants were placed on the site at the time of sale.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Haslar hospital, how much Our Enterprise (Haslar) Ltd. paid for Haslar hospital. [314669]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Haslar hospital site was sold to Our Enterprise (Haslar) Ltd. for £3 million.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates Ministers met representatives of the organisation Our Enterprise to discuss the future of Haslar Hospital. [314892]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Ministers have not met with representatives of Our Enterprise.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been to date of operating the Northwood HQ in support of Operation Atalanta; and how much of that cost has been paid by *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the Athena mechanism and *(c)* other means. [312653]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The local running costs of the EU Operational Headquarters at Northwood, from which Op Atalanta is led, cannot be identified separately within the overall running costs of the Northwood Headquarters. These costs are met by the UK and are not recoverable from the EU.

The common funded budget for Op Atalanta in 2009-10, which is paid through the Athena mechanism, currently amounts to €17.64 million. The UK's share of these common costs is currently €1.3 million, approximately £1.15 million at today's rate.

Details of payments towards Op Atalanta by other means are not known to the UK.

### Trident Submarines: Finance

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on the Initial Gate for replacing Trident nuclear submarines. [314038]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Initial Gate is a decision point in the acquisition process. The final spend on reaching Initial Gate cannot be calculated until after that point is reached; however, the total spend on the replacement submarine and associated propulsion system since the beginning of April 2007 to the end of December 2009 is some £380 million.

## TREASURY

### Financial Services: Regulation

16. **Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to improve arrangements for regulation of the financial services sector. [314444]

23. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further steps he plans to take in respect of the regulation of the financial services sector. [314451]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The UK continues to pursue an ambitious regulatory reform agenda at domestic, European and international levels. Firms will have to meet stricter capital and liquidity requirements, including holding more capital against riskier activities, and ensure remuneration practices do not promote excessive risk-taking. The Government are legislating for recovery and resolution plans, which will reduce the likelihood and impact of firms failing.

### Maintaining Demand

17. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to maintain the level of demand in the economy in the next 12 months. [314445]

18. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to maintain the level of demand in the economy in the next 12 months. [314446]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Loughborough (Mr. Reed) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

### Credit Availability

19. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the banking sector on the availability of credit. [314447]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

### Equitable Life

20. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on compensation of Equitable Life policyholders; and if he will make a statement. [314448]

**Mr. Byrne:** Sir John Chadwick has met with a variety of stakeholders as part of his work. He published his Second Interim report on 16 December 2009.

The Government are committed to establishing a fair payment scheme as quickly as possible. It expects Sir John to submit his final report in spring 2010, and will announce details of a payment scheme to follow, also in spring 2010.

### Fiscal Support: Families

21. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he plans to introduce to support families in the next 12 months. [314449]

22. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he plans to introduce to support families in the next 12 months. [314450]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government are introducing a range of measures to help families. The child element of the child tax credit will rise by £65 in April 2010, while working tax credit and child benefit will rise by 1.5 per cent. At the same time, tax thresholds will be frozen, offering a real-terms gain for taxpayers. In addition, from September free school meals will start to be extended to primary school pupils in low-income working families.

### Banks: Regulation

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* take steps to establish a ring-fenced fund in each bank in receipt of public funds to provide financial support to the manufacturing sector and *(b)* commission research on the implications for levels of greenhouse gas emissions of foreign energy projects involving fossil fuels which have received financing from the Royal Bank of Scotland. [314040]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Government's interests in financial institutions are managed at arm's length by UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI). UKFI's Framework Agreement with HMT requires it to manage the investments on a commercial basis and not to intervene in day-to-day management decisions of the investee companies.

In acting as an engaged institutional shareholder, UKFI will follow in full the Institutional Shareholders' Committee's Statement of Principles and take on board industry-wide recommendations or guidance contained in the Walker Review or elsewhere. If it considers that a particular bank's corporate social responsibility policies, including its environmental policies, are likely to have a negative effect on the value of the bank and its shares, we would expect UKFI to intervene, in order to protect the value of its holding.

As part of the lending agreements linked to their participation in the Asset Protection Scheme, RBS announced on the 14 January that they would provide a manufacturing fund of £1 billion to support the manufacturing sector. This fund will provide loans between £250,000 and £25 million to any firm in the manufacturing sector.

### Child Tax Credit

**Mr. Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in each *(a)* region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency are in receipt of child tax credits; and how many such households have an income of (a) less than £20,000, (b) between £20,000 and £30,000, (c) between £30,000 and £40,000, (d) between £40,000 and £50,000 and (e) more than £50,000. [314301]

**Mr. Timms:** The latest information on the number of families receiving child tax credit by Government office region and parliamentary constituency is available in the HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2009', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The latest information on the number of families receiving child tax credit, in each of the specified bands of income used to taper awards, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics December 2009', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr. Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in each *(a)* region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency have a child trust fund; and how many such households have an annual income of (a) less than £20,000, (b) between £20,000 and £29,999, (c) between £30,000 and £39,999, (d) between £40,000 and £49,999 and (e) £50,000 or more. [314211]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The latest statistical information on child trust fund accounts, including regional and constituency level data, can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The information requested about the annual incomes of households that have children with child trust funds is not available.

**Mr. Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with at least one disabled child have received a child trust fund payment. [314218]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** From this April payments will start to be made into the child trust fund accounts of all disabled children who are entitled to disability living allowance (DLA). We currently estimate that around 85,000 children have a child trust fund and are entitled to DLA.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average payment has been made into child trust fund accounts by parents in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since the scheme's inception; [313025]

(2) how many children have been eligible to receive a child trust fund voucher in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since the scheme's inception; [313026]

(3) how many child trust fund vouchers have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* used by parents to open an account in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since the scheme's inception. [313027]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** All children born since 1 September 2002 who live in the UK and are not subject to immigration controls are eligible for a child trust fund. If the child's parents or guardians do not open an account within a year HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will open one for them, thereby ensuring that all eligible children get a child trust fund account.

Statistical information regarding the child trust fund is published on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The latest package of information was published on 4 November 2009 and included data on child trust fund eligibility, voucher issue, take-up and parental contributions at United Kingdom, parliamentary constituency, regional and local authority level for children born by 5 April 2008. The website also contains statistical information relating to previous years.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314259]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Details of HM Treasury's arm's length bodies can be found in HM Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be found on HM Treasury's Website and in the Library of the House.

### Excise Duties: Beer

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of beer sold in the UK without the payment of value added tax and excise duty; [314166]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue lost to the Exchequer through the non-payment of value added tax and excise duty on beer in each year from 2001. [314268]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department has an internal estimate for revenue losses due to fraud in beer. For 2006-07 estimated losses from beer give a range of between £270 million and £490 million in respect of duty and £120 million to £220 million in respect of VAT. This corresponds to a market share of between 7 and 12 per cent. No estimate currently exists for any other financial year. The methodology is still under development and therefore this estimate may be revised.

### Fiscal Policy

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 January 2010, *Official Report,* column

6WS, on the Draft Code for Fiscal Stability, what definition of transparency was used for the purposes of the Draft Code for Fiscal Stability; and for what reasons the requirements for economic and fiscal projections referred to at paragraph 42 of that code do not refer to reporting requirements relating to the projected financial effects on climate change under the Climate Change Act 2008. [314192]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Transparency is defined in paragraph 6 of the draft Code for Fiscal Stability which is available in the Library of the House.

Paragraph 42 of the draft Code sets out the minimum reporting requirements for the economic and fiscal projections. Paragraph 45 of the draft Code makes clear that such projections, so far as is reasonably practicable, should be based on all Government decisions which have a material impact on the fiscal outlook. This includes the decisions relating to the implementation of the Climate Change Act 2008.

### Income Tax: Tax Allowances

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system of income tax allowances. [314427]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government keep the tax system under review to ensure it is modern and efficient and that everyone pays their fair share of tax to support valuable public services. Personal income tax allowances will be maintained at their current levels in 2010-11, providing a real terms benefit relative to September's Retail Price Index.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of reintroducing the 10p rate of income tax on the first £2,000 of taxable income in each fiscal year from 2010-11 to 2013-14. [313013]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* Estimates of reintroducing the 10p rate of income tax on the first £2,000 of taxable income in each fiscal year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 is provided in the following table.

| | *Cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 5,500 |
| 2011-12 | 5,600 |
| 2012-13 | 5,700 |
| 2013-14 | 5,800 |

The estimates are based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward in line with the 2009 pre-Budget report assumptions. The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

### Inheritance Tax: Eltham

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many estates in Eltham constituency paid inheritance tax in each of the last five years; [314371]

(2) how many estates in Eltham constituency would have been required to pay inheritance tax had the threshold been set at *(a)* £325,000 and *(b)* £1 million in each of the last five years. [314372]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on inheritance tax data at a constituency level is not available as postcodes are frequently missing from completed inheritance tax returns.

### Lehman Brothers: Insolvency

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to support the claim of UK-based creditors against the US parent company of Lehman Brothers. [313573]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The administration of the Lehman Brothers group, including its UK and US subsidiaries, is a matter for the courts and the court-appointed administrators in the relevant jurisdictions. It would be inappropriate for the Government to intervene in independent, court-governed proceedings such as these. Where UK-based creditors have a claim against any part of the Lehman Brothers group, it is appropriate for them to present this claim to the administrators of the relevant entity in the appropriate jurisdiction.

### National Debt

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the present and future level of the UK budget deficit compared to other G20 economies; and if he will make a statement. [314796]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on the Floor of the House earlier today to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring).

### PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many P14 returns had to be processed manually in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [312152]

(2) what criteria are used to define a pay-as-you-earn case as a complicated case which requires manual processing; [312322]

(3) on how many databases the HM Revenue and Customs pay-as-you-earn computer systems operate by the end of the pay as you earn modernisation process. [312334]

**Mr. Timms:** The majority of employers now provide PAYE end-of-year information electronically, which does not require manual processing, and from 2009-10, with a few exceptions, all employers will have to do so.

Manual processing is required where an employer annual return is filed on paper. Whether an employer PAYE case is 'complicated' is not a factor in whether the employer annual return requires manual processing. The information requested is provided in the following table.

| | *Employer annual returns received and processed manually* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 3,798,120 |
| 2006-07 | 3,413,174 |
| 2007-08 | 2,039,303 |
| 2008-09 | 1,766,424 |

In July 2009 HM Revenue and Customs introduced one single, national computer system (the National Insurance and PAYE Service) to replace the Computerisation of PAYE (COP) computer system that had handled PAYE for 20 years. The National Insurance and PAYE Service brings together all individuals' PAYE details onto one database, instead of the former 12 COP databases.

### Revenue and Customs

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans there are to outsource welfare support for staff of HM Revenue and Customs; [314285]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the value for money provided by the welfare support services operating within HM Revenue and Customs. [314286]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to achieving significant reductions in its running costs year on year for the foreseeable future.

In relation to the Department's Business and People Support Service, which employs 37 staff to provide an in-house welfare service, HMRC has concluded that it requires a different type of service to be commissioned because:

current facilities do not provide the 24 hour/7 days a week service available commercially;

the external market is well-established, with cost-effective and high-quality provision available from a range of providers; and

there are both cost and service advantages in joining with DWP and other Government Departments and public sector organisations (around 35 in total) who use an outsourced provider.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is therefore proposing to outsource its welfare services and has joined the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and other departments in a tendering exercise.

Joining DWP in a contract involving up to three hundred thousand staff is likely to offer large economies of scale and substantial financial savings. In November 2009, DWP issued an invitation to tender, which closed on 15 January 2010. Evaluation of responses to the tender is underway including a full financial and value for money review of in-house and potential outsourced service options.

### Smuggling: Alcoholic Drinks

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the loss of revenue to the Exchequer resulting from illicit alcohol sales in the last 12 months. [313127]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hillsborough (Ms Smith) on 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 599W.

### Smuggling: Northern Ireland

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of illegal trading in (i) cigarettes, (ii) spirits, (iii) diesel, (iv) petrol and (v) counterfeit goods in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [313679]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Details of convictions relating to cigarette and alcohol offences are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Departmental Autumn Performance Report for all of the United Kingdom. It is not possible to disaggregate these figures on a regional basis.

The number of prosecutions brought for oils offences in Northern Ireland is not reported.

Details of convictions relating to all types of oils offences for Northern Ireland are recorded and reported separately in the HMRC Departmental Autumn Performance Report.

Prosecution of persons detected importing counterfeit goods is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Border Agency.

### Smuggling: Tobacco

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the number and monetary value of cigarettes and *(b)* quantity of hand-rolled tobacco HM Revenue and Customs seized in each region in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [313900]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Location-specific statistics are not published as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime. However, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and UK Border Agency seizure statistics are available for England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The following tables provide:

the quantities seized;

the monetary value of the seizures; and

the revenue value of the seizures.

*1. HMRC cigarette seizures, 2006-07 to 2008-09*

| *Country* | *Data* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | Quantity (million) | 1,305 | 1,062 | 924 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 43 | 34 | 30 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 237 | 200 | 172 |
| Northern Ireland | Quantity (million) | 7 | 5 | 22 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Scotland | Quantity (million) | 13 | 12 | 6 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 2 | 2 | 1 |

*1. HMRC cigarette seizures, 2006-07 to 2008-09*

| *Country* | *Data* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wales | Quantity (million) | 3 | 3 | 29 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | Quantity (million) | 1,328 | 1,082 | 981 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 44 | 35 | 32 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 241 | 204 | 183 |

*2. HMRC hand-rolling tobacco seizures, 2006-07 to 2008-09*

| *Country* | *Data* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | Quantity (tonnes) | 222 | 190 | 250 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 20 | 17 | 24 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 29 | 29 | 41 |
| Northern Ireland | Quantity (tonnes) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.10 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.16 |
| Scotland | Quantity (tonnes) | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.51 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 0.40 | 0.35 | 0.73 |
| Wales | Quantity (tonnes) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.12 |
| | Tax value (£ million) | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.17 |
| Total | Quantity (tonnes) | 227 | 194 | 258 |
| | Goods value (£ million) | 21 | 18 | 24 |
| | Tax value (£ million | 29 | 30 | 42 |

All of these statistics should also be considered in the context of the overall UK illicit market share for cigarettes, which has been cut from over 20 per cent. in the early part of this decade, to 10 per cent. according to the latest published estimates for 2007-08.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints have been made against the Tax Credits Office by residents in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [314293]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available at local authority level.

Information about the number of complaints handled by the different HM Revenue and Customs business areas, including tax credits, is broken down in the annexes of the departmental reports available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Numbers of new complaints on tax credits from April to December 2009-10 are more than 40 per cent. lower compared to the same period in 2008-09.

## HEALTH

### Arthritis: Drugs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Prime Minister's press conference of 25 January 2010, what steps he plans to take to ensure full investigation of RoActemra. [314628]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is developing technology appraisal guidance on the use of RoActemra for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE'S technology appraisal guidance is based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and is developed through a robust process which includes public consultation.

### Autism: Health Services

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the Adult Autism Strategy. [314556]

**Phil Hope:** The legislation mandates a timeframe for the publication of the strategy by 1 April 2010.

We will be publishing the strategy in advance of this date.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps will be taken to ensure that the Adult Autism Strategy meets the criteria and recommendations contained in the National Audit Office's report on Supporting people with autism through adulthood, HC (2008-09) 556; and if he will make a statement; [314571]

(2) if he will publish the Adult Autism Strategy required under the Autism Act 2009 in April 2010; and if he will issue all statutory guidance to local authorities and health bodies required by the Act by December 2010. [314572]

**Phil Hope:** The Government have made clear that we will publish the Adult Autism Strategy before April 2010 and will consult on, and publish before end December 2010, the guidance required under the Autism Act 2009.

In developing this strategy, the Government have taken account of the findings and recommendations set out in the National Audit Office (NAO) as well as the subsequent Report of the Public Accounts Committee. Officials have met with representatives of the NAO. We will address the NAO's recommendations through the strategy, the accompanying delivery plan and guidance.

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of *(a)* training and *(b)* qualifications will be required by professionals working with adults with autism in the forthcoming Adult Autism Strategy. [314737]

**Phil Hope:** The provision of personalised services for adults with autism will depend on the development of increased awareness and understanding of autism across all public services.

We are committing to working with professional bodies, the Royal Colleges and other organisations to ensure that effective training is developed and delivered to achieve that aim.

## Cancer

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rate was of cancer patients aged *(a)* under 75 years old and *(b)* 75 years and older, of each cancer type (i) nationally, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years. [313687]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the survival rates of cancer patients were aged (a) under 75 years old and (b) 75 years and older, broken down by cancer type (i) nationally, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each primary care trust within London in each of the last five years [313687].

ONS calculates one- and five-year cancer survival rates for men and women aged 15-99, but not for specific age-groups.

The latest available one and five-year survival rates for (i) England, for 21 common cancers for patients diagnosed in 2001-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Comparable survival rates for England for each preceding five year period back to 1998-2001 and followed up to 2003 can also be downloaded from this link.

The latest one- and five-year survival rates for eight common cancers by (ii) government office region and strategic health authority, for patients diagnosed in 1997-1999 and followed up to the end of 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991

Comparable survival rates by government office region and strategic health authority for each preceding five year period back to 1994-1996 and followed up to 2001 can also be downloaded from this link.

ONS does not produce cancer survival rates for (iii) primary care trusts. However, one-year survival figures for three cancers (breast, colorectal and lung) by primary care organisation, have recently been published by the Department of Health in the second annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy. The report can be downloaded from this link.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109338

## Chapel Allerton Hospital: Manpower

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed at Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [314651]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of doctors and qualified nursing staff employed in the Leeds Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Trust for the dates shown.

*NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) doctors and qualified nursing staff in the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each year*

| | | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *2008* |
| HCHS doctors | 1,298 | 1,768 |
| Qualified nursing staff | 4,390 | 4,498 |

*Notes:*

1. In 1998 St James's and Seacroft University Hospital NHS Trust and United Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust merged to form Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Figures for 1997 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
2. Data quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

## Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since 1997. [314234]

**Ann Keen:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. Some 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and a NHS Health Check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Chorley constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT):

94 per cent, of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

97 per cent, of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 98.6 per cent of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 167 to 238. Between September 2002 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 1,915 to 2,161.

Between March 2008 and March 2009, the number of NHS dentists within the Central Lancashire PCT has increased from 222 to 252.

93.0 per cent, of urgent general practitioner (GP) referrals to the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Central Lancashire PCT opened its GP-led health centre on 1 December 2009 at the Ormskirk and District General Hospital. The £3 million state-of-the-art health centre will also provide a GP out-of-hours service and NHS dental services. The centre will offer longer opening hours, meaning that any member of the public will be able to see a GP or nurse between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It also provides a drop-in advice and treatment for minor injuries and ailments every day of the week from 8am to 10pm.

A publicly funded £40 million maternity and gynaecological unit opened at the Royal Preston Hospital in 2004. In addition, a new £2 million assessment and treatment service became operational at the Chorley and South Ribble Hospital in April 2008. The service enables patients who have to be referred to hospital to have their assessment, diagnosis, and where possible treatment at a one-stop shop to speed up their care.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Chorley will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities—was launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

Valuing People Now—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities—was published in January 2009.

New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

### Dementia: Drugs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what progress his Department has made on agreeing explicit goals for the size and speed of the reduction of the use of antipsychotic medication and for the improvement in the use of such drugs where needed; and whether any such goals have been agreed; [314509]

(2) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what progress has been made on developing an audit to generate data on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia; [314510]

(3) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what the role of the National Clinical Director for Dementia will be; what the salary is for that post; and what objectives have been set for that post; [314511]

(4) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what steps he has taken to make the reduction of the use of antipsychotic drugs for people with dementia and the assurance of good practice a clinical governance priority across the NHS; [314512]

(5) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what mechanisms he has put in place to facilitate liaison between specialist older people's mental health services and general practitioners to address the issue of people with dementia in their own homes who are on antipsychotic medication; [314646]

(6) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what steps he has taken to ensure that the improving access to psychological therapies programme delivers therapies to people with dementia and their carers; [314647]

(7) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what steps his Department has taken to enable the Care Quality Commission to implement rates of prescription of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia; [314648]

(8) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what progress his Department has made on giving primary care trusts the resources and mandate to commission from local specialist older people's mental health services an in-reach service that supports primary care in its work in care homes;

and how many primary care trusts commission such in-reach services; [314649]

(9) with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what steps his Department has taken to support the Royal Colleges in developing a curriculum for the development of appropriate skills for general practitioners and others working in care homes; and whether any college has implemented such a curriculum. [314650]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has recently appointed a national clinical director (NCD) for dementia. The NCD for dementia will promote clinical and professional engagement in the design and management of services and ensure that clinicians, professionals and managers working in acute, community and primary care health services and social care are actively engaged in transforming dementia services and health outcomes for people with dementia and their carers. The NCD will also lead on implementing the recommendations of the review of the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia.

National and local progress on addressing the conclusions of the review report will be monitored through the National Dementia Strategy Implementation Board responsible for delivery and implementation of the National Dementia Strategy.

Improving access to psychological therapies (IAPT) services are open to all those over the age of 18 with a diagnosis of mental ill health, depression or anxiety disorders, irrespective of co-morbidity. Commissioners are required to consider services for older adults as an integral element of their overall service provision. Guidance on this issue was published in October 2008 on the IAPT Commissioning Toolkit. NHS commissioners and service providers need to respond to local need and forge links with appropriate existing services for this client group.

Further work to identify how IAPT services established so far have met the needs of various client groups, including older adults, will be undertaken in the coming months as a full data review and equalities review will be concluded by the IAPT National Programme Team.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report for the Minister of State with responsibility for care services, the hon. Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia, what steps his Department has taken to commission further research into assessing the clinical and cost effectiveness of non-pharmacological methods of treating behavioural problems in dementia and other pharmacological approaches as an alternative to antipsychotic medication; what research projects on such matters have received funding from the NHS research budget in the last 12 months; and how much funding each such project received from that budget. [314668]

**Phil Hope:** The Ministerial Group on Dementia Research I have set up will assess the progress made with and help galvanise research into alternatives to antipsychotic medication. It will work to increase capacity in dementia research and help more research proposals successfully access the available funding.

The Group will hold its first meeting on 24 February 2010.

## Dental Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts are expected to meet the target of providing access to NHS dentistry to all patients who are seeking it by March 2011; [314705]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that all primary care trusts meet the target of providing access to NHS dentistry to all patients by March 2011. [314706]

**Ann Keen:** The commitment to ensuring access to national health service dental care for all who actively seek it by March 2011 was made by strategic health authorities in January 2009.

The NHS is investing in new dental services and working with existing providers on better ways of working to increase access. All primary care trusts (PCTs) have delivery plans in place. Access is rising steadily. Access rose in each of the last five quarters and the latest figures show NHS dentists saw 939,000 more patients in the 24 months ending September 2009 than in the same period ending June 2008.

To support the NHS in delivering its commitment the Department has increased total central funding available to the NHS for primary care dentistry to a total of over £2 billion and set up a national dental access programme. The programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton, has been working closely with PCTs over the last year to support them in expanding access.

## Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315133]

**Phil Hope:** The Department and its agencies do not differentiate between small and medium-sized enterprises and other creditors. It is the intention of the Department and its agencies to pay all suppliers within 10 days of receipt of a valid invoice regardless of their size.

In December 2009, the most recent month for which figures are available, the Department paid 95.43 per cent. of valid invoices within this 10-day target.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315024]

**Phil Hope:** Guidance on travel and subsistence for staff of the Department's agency is based on Chapter 8 of the Civil Service Management Code. This document is also available on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/csmc/index.aspx

The Department's non-departmental public bodies provide guidance to their staff on travel and subsistence as part of their staff codes and rules of business conduct. Details of this guidance should be sought from the individual bodies:

*Alcohol Education and Research Council (AERC)*

Eliot House (EH 1.4)
10-12 Allington Street
London
SW1E 5EH
www.aerc.org.uk

*Appointments Commission (AC)*

Ground Floor
Blenheim House
Duncombe Street
West 1
Leeds
LS1 4PL
www.appointments.org.uk

*Care Quality Commission (CQC)*

Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4PA
www.cqc.org.uk

*Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE)*

1st Floor
Kierran Cross
11 Strand
London
WC2N 5HR
www.chre.org.uk

*General Social Care Council (GSCC)*

Goldings House
2 Hay's Lane
London
SW1 2HB
www.gscc.org.uk

*Health Protection Agency (HPA)*

7th Floor
Holborn Gate
330 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7PP
www.hpa.org.uk

*Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)*

21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF
www.hfea.gov.uk

*Human Tissue Authority (HTA)*

Finlaison House
15-17 Furnival Street
London
EC4A 1AB
www.hta.gov.uk

*Monitor*

4 Matthew Parker Street
London
SW1H 9NL
www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

*Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB)*

Hercules House
Hercules Road
London
SE1 7DU
www.pmetb.org.uk

### Health Services: Armenia

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Armenian nationals treated by the NHS and *(b)* UK nationals treated in Armenia under reciprocal health care obligations in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was in each such case. [314913]

**Gillian Merron:** In the last 12 months, there have been no patient referrals from Armenia to the United Kingdom, incurring no costs. The agreement does not provide for referrals from the United Kingdom to Armenia. Under the agreement, nationals of Armenia and the United Kingdom can access emergency state health care in each country, but no reimbursements are sought from either country for treatment provided, and so the data relating to this are not collected centrally.

### Healthier Food Mark

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has spent on the Healthier Food Mark scheme; and how much it has paid to Deloitte for its evaluation of the pilot stage of that scheme; [314187]

(2) by what mechanisms he plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of the Healthier Food Mark scheme for the purposes of deciding whether to make use of that scheme mandatory in 2012, as referred to in the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit report on Food Matters of July 2008. [314188]

**Gillian Merron:** To date the Department has spent £788,000 on the Healthier Food Mark project over two years including the contract for Deloitte who have been running the extensive phase 1 pilots involving 50 organisations.

As detailed in Food Matters, the intention remains to establish the Healthier Food Mark for the public sector as a voluntary scheme until 2012. Once established, we will review how the Healthier Food Mark has been received, the level of take up across the public sector and whether it is delivering on its objectives to make public sector food healthier and more sustainable. A decision to consider the case of making the Healthier Food Mark mandatory would need to be based on the answers to any such review and a detailed impact assessment.

### Home Care Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which constituencies the Personal Care at Home Bill engagement events will be held. [314639]

**Phil Hope:** There are three stakeholder engagement events planned to accompany the Personal Care at Home consultation on regulations and guidance, which will be enabled by the Bill. Two of these have taken place, in the City of London and Westminster, with a third due to take place in the constituency of Salford, Manchester, on 5 February 2010.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of versions 1 to 8 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. [314645]

**Phil Hope:** Versions 1 to 8 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill are working drafts. As such, they will not be placed in the Library, as they are part of the standard formulation of Government policy.

### Hospital Wards

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many single rooms there will be in new hospitals opening in 2010; and how many there are in hospitals which they are to replace. [312944]

**Ann Keen:** The Department collects data on the proportion of single rooms in new national health service hospitals opened since 2003 with a capital value of over £25 million. Information on schemes opening in 2010 is contained in the table.

Information is not collected centrally on facilities that have been replaced as a result of new hospital schemes. All schemes with a capital value over £25 million have met the Department's 2001 guidance, which stated that the proportion of single rooms in new hospital developments should aim to be 50 per cent. but should not fall below 20 per cent. and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100 per cent.

Each trust makes an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single room provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions and affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations.

*New hospital facilities costing over £25 million opening in 2010*

| *NHS organisation* | *Scheme description* | *Capital value (£ million)* | *Proportion of beds in single rooms (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| St. Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust(St Helen's Diagnostic and Treatment Unit opened October 2008; Whiston Hospital due to open April 2010) | Development of St. Helen's Hospital (Diagnostic and Treatment Unit) and Whiston Hospital (Acute hospital services) | 338 | 50 |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust/Wear Valleys NHS Trust | Replacement of St. Luke's hospital offering general and forensic mental health services | 75 | 100 |
| Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust | Improving children's services and provision of primary care centres | 169 | 48 |
| University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust/Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust | Single site hospital to replace Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals and provide a new mental health unit (joint scheme with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health) | 627 | [1]50 |
| | | — | [2]100 |
| Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | Mental Health Facilities | 35 | 100 |
| Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | Women's and Children's Unit | 29 | 37 |

[1] Overall

[2] Mental health facility

### In Vitro Fertilisation

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on whether they should fund IVF treatment in cases where a husband or partner has a child or children from a previous relationship. [314832]

**Gillian Merron:** Decisions on access criteria for national health service-funded in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment are made locally by individual primary care trusts (PCTs), taking into account local considerations.

The fertility guideline published in 2004 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) makes recommendations about the clinical criteria for access to NHS-funded fertility treatment. To support PCTs in working towards the implementation of the NICE guideline and more equitable provision, the Government funded the leading fertility patient support group, Infertility Network UK (IN UK), to draw up standard access criteria as a guideline. The Standardised Infertility Access Criteria were published by IN UK in June 2009, alongside a guide for commissioners in developing their services.

The Access Criteria recommend that PCTs should move towards a position where funding is available for those who do not have a living child, including couples where one partner is childless. It also explains that as investment in fertility services increases, funding may be available for IVF where both partners have a child/children from a pervious relationship, but not from the current relationship.

### Kidney Patients: Health Services

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to *(a)* increase the level of monitoring of NHS performance on the diagnosis and treatment of acute kidney injury and *(b)* implement a code to identify and audit the (i) incidence of and (ii) outcomes associated with acute kidney injury; [314709]

(2) if he will take steps to facilitate joint working and commissioning by acute care and renal medicine services to ensure the rapid diagnosis of acute kidney injury. [314711]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is bringing together a range of organisations with a key role to play in delivering improvements in the prevention, detection and management of acute kidney injury. The National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, Donal O'Donoghue, set out in his letter of 16 December to the Chief Executive of the National Confidential Enquiry into Outcome and Patient Deaths the actions which will be taken at a national level to improve the detection and management of acute kidney injury and a copy of this has been placed in the Library.

### Lung Disease: Health Services

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of treating non-UK residents for lung disease in each of the last five years. [314912]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 57W.

### Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on public relations at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months; [314308]

(2) how many staff are employed in the public relations department at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton; [314309]

(3) how many avoidable deaths have occurred at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the last five years; [314311]

(4) how much was raised from *(a)* parking charges and *(b)* parking fines at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months; [314312]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of patients discharged from Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in a malnourished state in the last 12 months; [314313]

(6) how many people are employed in equality and diversity roles at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton; [314314]

(7) how much was paid in bonuses to staff in management grades at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the financial year 2008-09; [314316]

(8) what the budget of the Art For Life scheme at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton was in each of the last three years. [314317]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is a matter for Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Rosalinde Wyke, chair of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's enquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* contracted and *(b)* died from (i) MRSA and (ii) clostridium difficile infection at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months. [314310]

**Ann Keen:** The number of people who contracted methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections (bacteraemia) and clostridium difficile infections (CDI) at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months is not held in the format requested. Data on the numbers of MRSA bacteraemia and CDI, broken down by acute trust, are published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on their website on a monthly basis at:

www.hpa.org.uk/HPA/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/1191942126541/

The latest available data for Taunton and Somerset NHS foundation trust, which includes Musgrove Park hospital, are in the following table:

*Clostridium difficile infections (CDI) and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections (bacteraemia) diagnosed at Taunton and Somerset foundation trust between December 2008 and November 2009 inclusive*

| | | Number |
|---|---|---|
| | *CDI* | *MRSA* |
| *2008* | | |
| December | 3 | 4 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 1 | 1 |
| February | 6 | 0 |
| March | 4 | 0 |
| April | 6 | 0 |
| May | 1 | 1 |
| June | 4 | 0 |
| July | 8 | 1 |
| August | 2 | 0 |
| September | 4 | 1 |
| October | 1 | 0 |
| November | 2 | 0 |

*Notes:*
1. National health service acute trust laboratories report all cases of MRSA bloodstream infections, not just those from in-patients, and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.
2. NHS acute trusts report episodes of CDI in people aged two years and over. The figures presented are the 'trust apportioned number' referring to infections that are presumed to be hospital acquired.

*Source:*
*HPA mandatory surveillance scheme* The number of people who died from MRSA and CDI at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months is not held centrally. The numbers of deaths in England in 2008 where MRSA or CDI were recorded as a contributory factor are available on the website of the Office of National Statistics at (for MRSA): www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mrsa0809.pdf
for CDI): www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cdif0809.pdf

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks on staff there have been at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months. [314315]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff is compiled by the NHS Security Management Service (SMS) following the end of each year April to March. Information on assaults in the last 12 months is not available centrally. The number of reported physical assaults against staff at the Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 was 92.

Further information on the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff in England is contained in the 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' and 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

The NHS SMS can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

## NHS Walk-in Centres

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS walk-in centres there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* Cheshire in each year since 1997. [312945]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The first national health service walk-in centres were established in 2000; the first wave consisted of 43 pilot sites, opening between 2000 and 2001, with a further 28 sites announced in 2004, and six commuter walk-in centres which opened between 2005 and 2007. Responsibility for centres was subsequently passed to primary care trusts, and the Department no longer centrally monitored numbers; however, we believe there are now over 90 across England, plus 121 new general practitioner (GP)-led health centres, where patients can similarly access care on a walk-in basis.

The following table gives the walk-in centres and GP health centres believed to have opened in Merseyside and Cheshire since 2000.

| | *Merseyside* | *Cheshire* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 3: Liverpool Old Swan; Wirral Arrowe Park; and Wirral Victoria | 0 |
| 2001 | 5: above + Liverpool City Centre and St. Helens | 0 |
| 2005 | 7: above + Litherland Town Hall and Knowsley Huyton. | 0 |
| 2006 | 8: above + Smithdown children's walk-in centre, Liverpool | 0 |
| 2007 | 9: above + Knowsley, Kirkby | 0 |
| 2008 | 9 | 1: Widnes |
| 2009 | 11: above + Knowsley, Halewood and Mersey View GP access centre | 5: above + Newton Surgery, Widnes; Warrington GP health centre; Stockport GP health centre; Western Cheshire GP health centre |

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many hours on average each day NHS walk-in centres are open. [312947]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Most national health service walk-in centres are open every day, for at least 12 hours; some are open 24 hours; however opening times will vary to meet local circumstances and are not monitored centrally.

## NHS: Drugs

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make an assessment of the effects of the guidance issued to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the processes for local decision-making about medicines, with particular reference to *(a)* the consistency of decision-making between PCTs and *(b)* the availability of drugs not recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence across PCTs; [314794]

(2) what mechanisms exist to monitor the consistency of decisions taken by exceptional case panels in different primary care trusts. [314795]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Prescribing Centre's good practice guidance, "Supporting rational local decision-making about medicines (and treatments): A handbook of good practice guidance" available at:

www.npc.co.uk/policy/local/constitution_handbook.htm

was reinforced by directions which came into force on 1 April 2009. We have no plans to make a formal assessment of primary care trust arrangements under the Directions.

## NHS: Executives

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many female chief executives of NHS hospital trusts there were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2009. [312946]

**Ann Keen:** Chief executives of NHS hospital trusts are included under the senior manager occupation code within the workforce census, along with other executive level staff such as board members and non-clinical directors. The following table gives the numbers by gender of staff that fall under the senior manager occupational code in 1997, 2001 and 2008. Numbers for 2009 will be available following publication of the next national health service workforce census in March 2010.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Senior managers in England by gender as at 30 September each year*

*headcount*

| | *All staff* | *Male* | *Female* | *Percentage male* | *Percentage female* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 England | 7,528 | 4,159 | 3,369 | 55 | 45 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| NHS Hospital Trusts | 6,107 | 3,317 | 2,790 | 54 | 46 |

*NHS hospital and community health services: Senior managers in England by gender as at 30 September each year*

*headcount*

| | *All staff* | *Male* | *Female* | *Percentage male* | *Percentage female* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 England | 9,740 | 4,785 | 4,955 | 49 | 51 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| NHS Hospital Trusts | 6,616 | 3,329 | 3,287 | 50 | 50 |
| 2008 England | 11,508 | 5,106 | 6,402 | 44 | 56 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| NHS Hospital Trusts | 6,508 | 3,126 | 3,382 | 48 | 52 |

*Notes:*

1. It is not possible to isolate the numbers of chief executives from the census data. They are included under the 'senior manger' occupation code, along with other executive level staff such as board members, PEC board members and non-clinical directors.

2. NHS Hospital Trust figures for 2008 should be treated with caution as they are not directly comparable with earlier years. Earlier years include staff and services that would have left NHS Hospital Trusts to form PCTs in 2002. It is not possible to remove these staff from the figures for earlier years.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

### Nurses

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses qualified in each of the last five years. [315075]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected by the Department. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) does not hold information on the numbers of newly qualified nurses but does collate data on the number of initial NMC registrants. Statistical information about the number of initial registrants to the NMC can be viewed via the follow website address:

www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=36

### Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 128W, on nutrition, if he will ensure that his Department's response to the report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board is finalised and the report and the response published by the end of February 2010. [314568]

**Phil Hope:** We propose to publish the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board final report on progress in implementing the Nutrition Action Plan, together with the Government's response, in February 2010.

### Obesity: Drugs

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has issued instructions to doctors to cease prescribing the anti-obesity drug sibutramine; whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will bring forward its 2011 review of its guidance on obesity to take account of this development; and if he will make a statement. [314671]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I am told that the recent advice issued to healthcare professionals on sibutramine by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) followed a Europe-wide review of the risks and benefits of this medicine. This review has been conducted by the European Medicines Agency's (EMA's) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) after the receipt of new data from the Sibutramine Cardiovascular OUTcomes (SCOUT) study. This large long-term study was conducted at the request of the CHMP to determine the effects of sibutramine in obese and overweight patients with cardiovascular risk factors.

The new data from the SCOUT study showed that patients with cardiovascular disease and/or type 2 diabetes treated with sibutramine had an increased risk of heart attack and stroke compared with those receiving a placebo. Available study data also suggest that the average weight loss achieved with sibutramine is modest and may not be maintained after treatment is stopped. As a key aim of treating obesity is to decrease the risk of cardiovascular-related conditions such as heart attack and stroke, the risks of sibutramine were considered by the CHMP to outweigh its benefits. Consequently the CHMP has recommended that the licences for sibutramine should be suspended across Europe.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued supplementary advice to stakeholders in the obesity clinical guideline that the recommendations relating to sibutramine have been withdrawn and that the MHRA advice should be followed. NICE'S advice is published on its website at:

www.nice.org.uk/CG43

### Social Services: Vulnerable Adults

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's response to its consultation on strengthening protection for vulnerable adults of 19 January 2010, when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals for the mandatory Safeguarding Adults Boards; what estimate he has made of the cost under each budget heading of implementing such proposals; and from what budgets such funding would be drawn. [314627]

**Phil Hope:** On 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 8-10WS, we issued a written ministerial statement in response to the consultation on safeguarding adults. This statement outlines the Government's plans, which are to introduce legislation as soon as parliamentary time permits. The costs involved in putting safeguarding boards on a statutory footing will depend on what duties are specified in the legislation. This is still under discussion.

### St. James Hospital Leeds: Oncology

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of establishing the regional oncology centre at St. James's University Hospital. [314654]

**Ann Keen:** Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that the Bexley Wing, the regional oncology centre based at St. James's University Hospitals, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, cost £220 million.

### Wheelchairs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to undertake a review of wheelchair services in England; and if he will make a statement. [314516]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 789W.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314261]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). The CSC is responsible for managing Britain's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship Plan.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK. [314923]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not issue travel guidance to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). As a non-departmental public body, the CSC has independently produced guidance on this issue, which can be found at:

http://www.cscuk.org.uk/docs/CSC_travel_policy_16.05.06.pdf

### Haiti: Earthquakes

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international counterparts in respect of the sanitation of camps for displaced persons in Haiti. [315031]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Officials of the Department for International Development (DFID) and I have been in regular contact with our European counterparts, including European Development Ministers and Cathy Ashton, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Alexander) has held discussions with Josette Sheeran, head of the World Food Programme and Dr. Rajiv Shah, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) administrator. The Secretary of State has also met with John Holmes, head of the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs. A wide range of issues that must be addressed urgently in Haiti, including sanitation, have been discussed.

Our field team reports that co-ordination of water and sanitation relief efforts continues to improve despite the scope and complexity of this response. There are still problems, but donors, cluster leads and the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs are working to identify solutions.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Colombia: Human Rights

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Colombia on reports of its treatment of representatives of *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* students, *(c)* indigenous peoples and *(d)* other groups. [314839]

**Chris Bryant:** We regularly raise human rights with President Uribe and other members of the Colombian Government with reference to the plight of vulnerable groups such as those mentioned. Our embassy in Bogota also makes representations to the Colombian Government in specific cases of abuse.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Colombia on the case of the trade union representative, Alirio Garcia. [314840]

**Chris Bryant:** Yes. I will raise Mr. Garcia's case with the Colombian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adriana Mejia.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the operation of the justice system in Colombia. [314841]

**Chris Bryant:** There are serious problems facing Colombia's judicial system, and the issue of impunity remains a particular concern. There is a lack of accountability for state forces guilty of human rights violations, and for crimes committed by non-state actors. These are issues I regularly raise with the Colombian Government.

We are funding two projects aimed at tackling impunity in Colombia at present, totalling £250,000. The largest of these projects is being implemented by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and is being tailored to meet the needs of those involved in the Colombian judicial process, including investigators, lawyers and judges.

## Cyprus: Property

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 585W, what revisions he has made to his Department's guidance in relation to property development in the north of Cyprus. [314484]

**Chris Bryant:** We are currently reviewing our travel advice, as we do on a regular basis. It already, contains guidance relating to property in Cyprus, in which we highlight the issues involved and recommend that purchasers obtain independent legal advice.

## Departmental Health and Safety

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 486W, on departmental health and safety, if he will place in the Library a copy of the document previously used by his Department to provide staff with health and safety advice. [314017]

**Chris Bryant:** Yes.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff his Department employs in each of the UK's overseas territories. [314152]

**Chris Bryant:** The number of staff employed by my Department in each of the Overseas Territories is as follows:

Anguilla : Four UK-based; and one locally engaged staff in the Governor's office

Ascension Island: The Administrator

Bermuda: Three UK-based in the Governor's office

British Virgin Islands: Four UK-based; and two locally-engaged staff in the Governor's office

Cayman Islands: Four UK-based; and one locally engaged staff in the Governor's office

Gibraltar: 22 Employed in the Office of the Governor

Falkland Islands: Four UK-based staff in the Governor's office

Montserrat: Four UK-based; and two locally engaged staff in the Governor's office

Pitcairn: One, The Governor's Representative

St Helena: Three UK-based staff in the Governor's office

Turks and Caicos Islands: Six UK-based staff

Tristan da Cunha: One, The Administrator

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department are serving as heads of mission overseas. [314153]

**Chris Bryant:** There are 143 staff currently serving overseas in the position of ambassador or high commissioner. In addition, there are a further 41 staff serving as head of subordinate post, and nine staff serving as governor/administrator.

## Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314254]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office sponsors the following non-departmental public bodies:

The British Council

Diplomatic Service Appeal Board

Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine

Great Britain-China Centre

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Wilton Park Advisory Council.

## Kazakhstan: Overseas Trade

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports of corruption in business transactions between the UK and Kazakhstan. [314717]

**Chris Bryant:** I have not received any recent reports of corruption in business transactions between the UK and Kazakhstan.

## Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

**Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to vote in favour of the endorsement of the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict at the forthcoming meetings of *(a)* the UN General Assembly and *(b)* the UN Security Council. [313371]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UN General Assembly in New York considered the Goldstone report on 5 November 2009 where we made our position clear: some aspects of the report were flawed—particularly its failure to acknowledge fully Israel's right to protect its citizens, and the inadequate attention paid to Hamas' actions. We eventually decided to abstain on the resolution, with France and 42 others, because voting for the resolution would have meant endorsing the report and ignoring its flaws. However, the issues raised by the report were very serious, and they should be credibly and independently investigated.

The UN Secretary General is expected to release a report on the progress of both Israeli and Palestinian investigations in February 2010. We will consider his report when we receive it.

## Overseas Residence: Crime

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are *(a)* detained abroad awaiting trial and *(b)* detained abroad in violation of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [314533]

**Chris Bryant:** The most recent figures show that on 30 September 2009, we were aware of 2,582 British nationals detained overseas. It is not possible to give the number who are still awaiting trial except by looking through the files on all these detainees, which would involve disproportionate expense.

Where we are aware of concerns that a British national is not being treated in line with international standards we will, with the detainee's permission, consider approaching the local authorities. We keep individual records of cases where concerns are raised. However for the reasons already described we cannot give the number of cases where concerns have been raised over denial of the rights set out in article 9 of the international covenant on civil and political rights.

### Peru: Foreign Relations

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Peruvian counterpart on Peru's adherence to the United Nations General Assembly's declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; and if he will make a statement. [314704]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK maintains an open dialogue with Peru on human rights. During Peru's Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations Human Rights Council in May 2008, the UK recommended that Peru tackle discrimination against vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples. Following outbreaks of violence between police and civilians, including indigenous groups, in July 2009 our ambassador to Peru spoke to both Prime Minister Velasquez Quesquen and Foreign Minister Garcia Belaunde urging dialogue and the establishment of a process to give indigenous groups an equal voice in planning the sustainable development of Peru's Amazon region.

We continue to follow closely Peru's progress on the rights of indigenous peoples, including implementing the recommendations the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples made after his visit to Peru in July 2009. We welcome the dialogue mechanism established between the Peruvian government and indigenous groups and the recent creation of two natural reserves on part of Peru's indigenous territory. This measure safeguards the biodiversity of the area and natural resources for the indigenous communities living there.

The Government are committed to protecting human rights of indigenous people although we do not plan to sign International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169. As the UK does not have any indigenous people as defined by article 1a of the Convention we would be unable to give effect to the Convention. The convention sets out a framework for the way in which governments operate in regard to indigenous people within their own territories.

The UK supported the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted in September 2007, as we consider this an important tool to protect indigenous people. This declaration is important because it represents the views and wishes of indigenous people as well as those of the UN member states, recognises the rights of indigenous individuals and establishes the parameters for future work on the basis of mutual respect.

We are also committed to implementing EU Council Resolution of 30 November 1998 on Indigenous peoples within the framework of the development co-operation of the Community and the member states, a policy which indigenous people were involved in developing. In 2005, we agreed the joint statement on EU development policy that committed the EU to strengthening the mainstreaming of indigenous issues. This involves regularly meeting representatives of indigenous groups to discuss policy and implementation, as well as making indigenous groups eligible for funding under EU human rights and democracy programmes. The EU is also funding the ILO to work on implementing ILO Convention 169 in Africa, Latin America and South Asia.

The Government have also set out its plans and undertakings in the DFID 2005 Policy Paper "Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion", which includes the rights of indigenous peoples. These include undertaking to identify which groups in society are excluded and why, through the country governance analysis process which feeds into country assistance plans, as well as recognising that indigenous peoples are often denied rights especially through their language not being recognised and/or through living in remote or isolated geographical locations. These also include supporting programmes which seek to strengthen the rights, voice and political representation and participation of excluded groups.

### United Nations

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes the UK is seeking in the composition of the UN Security Council. [314790]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government strongly support reform of the UN Security Council, as part of a wide range of UN reforms. The UK supports permanent seats for Brazil, India, Germany and Japan, together with permanent African representation. In the absence of agreement on a permanent reform model, the UK believes that an intermediate solution could help to achieve the goal of a reformed Security Council.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's objectives are for reform of the United Nations. [314791]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government's key objective is a more efficient and effective United Nations which is able to meet 21st century challenges. Specific areas of reform that the UK is supporting include: reform of the UN Security Council; stronger linkages between peacekeeping and peace building; more effective leadership in, and management of, UN bodies; and implementation of the system-wide coherence agenda aimed at improving the UN's performance in the humanitarian and development fields.

### Venezuela: Politics and Government

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political and economic stability of Venezuela and its role in the region. [314417]

**Chris Bryant:** Venezuela is currently going through a difficult period both economically and politically. Water and electricity shortages across Venezuela have worsened, with cuts of up to five hours per day in the states of Táchira, Mérida, Falcón and Bolivar. Caracas, which has been deliberately spared, is now also affected by water cuts, particularly in the barrios. There are genuine concerns that electricity supplies to Caracas will be severely affected too. The Guri dam, which supplies more than 70 per cent. of Venezuela's electricity, is at its lowest level for years and Venezuela is only in the first of a six-month 'dry season'. Most of this reflects lack of investment, not helped by the highest per capita energy and water use in the region resulting from economically distorting subsidies and price controls.

Although oil prices have recovered, the economy contracted around 1.5 per cent. in 2009, which in turn has limited the Government's ability to sustain previous levels of social spending. With subsidies reducing, important social "missions" such as Mercal, the subsidised food programme, have had to increase prices (by as much as 80 per cent. on some lines). The weekly consumer basket remains about 30 per cent. higher than the minimum wage. Inflation remains high at, officially, 27 per cent.

On the weekend of 26 January 2010, the Venezuelan Government took six cable television channels off the air for not televising a Government message. The privately owned RCTV International, openly opposed to President Hugo Chavez, is one of those affected. This has led to major student protests with reports of at least one student being killed in the city of Mérida. There has been strong condemnation from the US and EU partners on the closure of the stations.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by the Law Officers' Departments since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314528]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service has two types of forums where citizens are present and are consulted on CPS policy and strategy developments:

*The National Community Accountability Forum*

There are 11 citizens on this forum. The forum was set up in April 2007 and usually meets quarterly. It has met on the following dates since October 2008:

22 October 2008;

21 January, 8 April, 30 September, 30 November 2009;

6 January 2010.

*Community Involvement Panels*

There are currently 11 local level Community Involvement Panels. The number of citizens on each of these panels vary between four and 30. The frequency of meetings held varies, but it is between two and three times per year. There is no centrally held information on the actual dates when meetings were held.

Ministers have not been present at any of the forum meetings.

No citizens' juries or summits have been held by any of the remaining Law Officers' Departments.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312524]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is contained in the following tables:

*Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol), Attorney-General's Office (AGO), HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and National Fraud Office*

| Financial year | Total (£) |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 33,742 |
| 2007-08 | [1]258,172 |
| 2008-09 | 40,981 |

[1] Figure for 2007-08 includes expenditure associated with the AGO relocation to 20 Victoria Street.

The above table outlines capital expenditure on furniture, fixtures and fittings. It is not possible to separate spend on furniture from fixtures and fittings without incurring a disproportionate cost, and there has been no recorded expenditure on works of art or new vehicles.

*The Serious Fraud Office*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| Financial year | New furnishings | New vehicles |
| 2006-07 | [1]277,535 | [2]92,350 |
| 2007-08 | 61,034 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 42,145 | 0 |

[1] The increased spend for 2006-07 includes costs incurred by vacating offices in Verulam Gardens and consolidating accommodation on two sites at Elm Street and Grays Inn Road.

[2] The one-off figure 2006-07 is the cost of a specialised incident response and mobile laboratory unit acquired by the SFO and operated by the City of London Police.

The SFO have no record of any expenditure on artwork during the last three financial years.

*The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)*

| | Total (£ million)[1] |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1.5 |
| 2007-08 | 1.3 |
| 2008-09 | 2.1 |

[1] These figures include expenditure by the RCPO, which merged with the CPS in 2009-10.

The data provided cover items that cost over £500 only and it is possible that additional furniture and furnishings have been purchased at a lower cost. To obtain information on low-value items would incur disproportionate cost.

The CPS is a devolved organisation. To identify spend relating to works of art would require local managers to review all paper procurement records and would incur disproportionate cost.

The CPS has not purchased any new vehicles in the last three years.

### Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions there were for offences relating to domestic violence in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314876]

**The Solicitor-General:** Since 2005, CPS Suffolk has captured domestic violence (DV) data, using the Services' electronic Compass Case Management System (CMS). The number of defendants prosecuted for offences of domestic violence in Suffolk since 2005 are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 850 |
| 2007 | 742 |
| 2008 | 801 |
| 2009 | 916 |

The collection of complete and comparative data began only in 2005-06.

### Government Departments: Criminal Proceedings

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Solicitor-General what guidance her Department has issued on the processing of complaints of criminal conduct on the part of Ministers and Government officials made to *(a)* the Director of Public Prosecutions and *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service. [314272]

**The Solicitor-General:** I can confirm that neither the Attorney-General nor I have issued guidance to either the Director of Public Prosecutions or to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the processing of complaints of criminal conduct on the part of Ministers and Government officials. The CPS does not have an investigative function. Complaints of criminal conduct on the part of Ministers or Government officials would be investigated by the police or other relevant law enforcement body. Where an investigation results in a file being passed to the CPS, the prosecution decision will be made by a Crown prosecutor in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Crown Prosecution Service operates a system to regulate *(a)* access and *(b)* dissemination of material within the Service relating to (i) investigations into and (ii) prosecutions of (A) Ministers and (B) officials of Government departments. [315161]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) applies the Government Protective Marking Scheme (GPMS) for regulating access to material relating to the investigation and prosecution of alleged criminal conduct within its possession by applying appropriate security classifications. The level of the protective marking will dictate what steps should be taken to prevent any unauthorised disclosure or loss of the item. These steps include specific requirements as to the level of security clearance needed to have access to the material in question, the physical conditions under which it will be stored, and how it will be transmitted within and between locations. The CPS security policy is designed to ensure that all confidential material in the Service's possession is safeguarded in conditions of appropriate security and that access to case papers is restricted to those with a clear business need to see the relevant material.

Legal Guidance issued by the CPS provides that certain categories of cases must be referred by CPS Areas to CPS Headquarters so that they can be dealt with by suitably qualified and senior lawyers. Under this guidance, cases involving Members of Parliament, including Ministers, (acting in their official capacity or office), and other cases involving high-profile people are referred to, and dealt with, by the CPS Special Crime Division (SCD). Where the allegation involves matters in the Minister's or Member's private life, this will usually be dealt with by the local CPS Area. If appropriate, the Director of Public Prosecutions will be kept informed about the progress of such cases.

### Government Departments: Data Protection and Freedom of Information

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Solicitor-General what systems are in place in the Government Legal Service to advise its members on *(a)* responsibilities for compliance with legal obligations under (i) the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and (ii) provisions of the Data Protection Acts, *(b)* the sanctions for non-compliance with such legislation and *(c)* the provisions of the common law relating to misconduct in public office. [315159]

**The Solicitor-General:** Government lawyers are employed in a range of Departments and non-departmental public bodies. Each organisation is responsible for setting and enforcing its own Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act policies and Government lawyers would be expected to comply with the policies of the Department in which they serve.

The Government Legal Service's (GLS) intranet site includes a site containing materials and guidance on information law. In addition a wide range of GLS training on these issues is provided to Government lawyers.

### Treasury Solicitors Dept: Data Protection and Freedom of Information

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Solicitor-General what procedures exist within the Treasury Solicitor's Department to ensure that its employees comply with the provisions of *(a)* data protection and *(b)* freedom of information legislation. [314271]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Treasury Solicitor's (TSol) departmental intranet contains written guidance for all staff on dealing with provisions under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and Data Protection Act (DPA). This includes TSol guidance on handing FOI requests and Data Protection, an FOI checklist and a Records Management Manual. There is also a section within the TSol Staff Handbook on handling Information and Records Management.

In addition to the training provided on the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to all employees at the time of implementation, every new employee since January 2005 has received specific induction training on how to handle an FOI or DPA request in accordance with our legislative obligations.

In addition each FOI and DPA response must be personally approved by a TSol director to ensure that the response complies with the provisions of the appropriate Act.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Community Development: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken in respect of community safety in Coventry in the last 12 months. [313924]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]*: I have been asked to reply.

Coventry now has dedicated Neighbourhood Policing teams providing a visible presence, engaging communities and problem solving. Improving public confidence in dealing with the crime and antisocial behaviour that matters locally is a key priority for community safety partners and Coventry has benefited from a wide range of community safety approaches in the last 12 months. In particular, Coventry has received funding as part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme which saw increased police patrols and safety arches.

Coventry's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), with the police as a key partner, has a number of activities and interventions in place to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour, and its causes. The CSP actively participated in the Home Office sponsored Not in My Neighbourhood Week in November 2009 with multi-agency street briefings, community clean-ups and community surgeries.

### Community Development: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 14 October 2009, on Connecting Communities, what criteria were used to determine the allocation of funding to neighbourhoods. [313810]

**Barbara Follett:** Connecting Communities neighbourhoods have been identified by examining a range of hard and soft data around cohesion, deprivation and crime, perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources and feedback from people working locally. The funding allocated to each neighbourhood is based on the individual plans that they have drawn up which focus on giving people a bigger say in local issues, addressing specific local concerns and increasing access to local services and opportunities.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313832]

**Barbara Follett:** The numbers of performance reviews undertaken by staff in the Department of Communities and Local Government and its agencies over the past five years are set out in the table:

| | *Total number of reviews* | *Number of reviews rated unsatisfactory [illegible] below* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 2,857 | [illegible] |
| 2006 | 3,238 | [illegible] |
| 2007 | 3,131 | 18 |
| 2008 | 3,275 | 10 |
| 2009 | 3,181 | 8 |
| Totals: | 15,682 | 64 |

Of the 64 cases where performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below, no staff have left the Department as a direct result of this rating. This equates to 0 per cent. of full-time equivalent staff.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's timetable is for the production of its staff handbook in an alternative electronic format that can be published online; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the staff handbook when available on CD-ROM. [313806]

**Barbara Follett:** The work to reproduce Communities and Local Government's staff handbook in an alternative electronic format is due to be completed at the end of March 2010 and a copy will be placed in the Library.

### Deprivation Indicators

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the next Index of Multiple Deprivation. [313887]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department is currently considering a timetable for the next English Index of Multiple Deprivation. Once a decision on a publication date has been reached, this will be announced on the National Statistics Publication Hub, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

### Floods: Cumbria

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an estimate of the irrecoverable financial losses incurred by local authorities consequent on the Cumbria floods in 2009. [313930]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Local authorities are responsible for assessing their own risk and putting in place contingencies through the use of insurance, self insurance and reserves to provide both security and value for money for their communities to deal with emergencies like the Cumbrian flooding. It will be a matter for authorities to make any assessments on irrecoverable costs and how they are managed.

The Government operate a scheme of emergency financial assistance (Bellwin) to assist local authorities in covering costs they incur as a result of work in coping with emergencies such as, typically, floods.

In the event of an exceptional emergency, individual departments will now consider providing financial support for various aspects of the recovery effort.

In recognition of the exceptional nature of these floods, the Government and the North West Development Agency (NWDA) has made available direct financial assistance in addition to support and advice to the Cumbria area.

Funding for bridge and road repairs, construction of a temporary footbridge and a free train shuttle service.

£1 million Community Recovery Grant available to local authorities to use to help local people and businesses.

£2.95 million worth of schemes to provide assistance to businesses, the farming and tourism industries along with funding and additional support to the local authorities.

The Bellwin scheme that provides emergency financial assistance to local authorities to help meet uninsurable costs they incur when dealing with the aftermath of a major emergency in their area. Set at 100 per cent. rather than 85 per cent. above threshold.

## Housing: Finance

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take to assist arm's length management organisations to raise finance for renovation work on their properties; and if he will make a statement. [314787]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) maintain council housing stock on behalf of their parent local authorities. ALMOs are funded by a management fee that is agreed between the ALMO and its local authority. Capital funding support for local authorities is allocated in the form of supported capital expenditure allowances within the housing revenue account subsidy system. The Department does not fund ALMOs directly.

## Local Government

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has given to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* regional assemblies on opening offices overseas. [315096]

**Barbara Follett:** No guidance on this matter has been issued by this Department.

## Local Government: Assets

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have *(a)* sold community assets to social enterprise or third sector organisations and *(b)* taken decisions to sell such assets in each of the last three years. [314858]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government do not keep centralised information on this but a recent survey, carried out by SQW Consultants on behalf of the Development Trust Association, found that, out of the 119 local authorities in England who replied to it (33 per cent. of the total), 80 per cent. had completed asset transfers to social enterprises or other third sector organisations in the two years 2007-09. The survey also found that, among those authorities, more than 350 asset transfer projects are currently under way. It should be noted however that the survey does not relate to sales alone but to transfers on a range of tenures.

## Local Government: Compensation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 26 August 2008 on redress, what plans he has to require local authorities to offer *(a)* high street vouchers and *(b)* monetary compensation to local residents in cases where a local authority service has failed. [314965]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The evidence considered by the review of redress, to which the press release of 26 August 2008 referred, showed that the key factor for people in feeling that their concern had been adequately dealt with was not receiving compensation, but having their problem effectively resolved. Communities and Local Government therefore has no plans to require local authorities to offer high street vouchers and monetary compensation to local residents in cases where a local authority service has failed.

## Local Government: Reorganisation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal costs his Department incurred in respect of each completed judicial review on local government restructuring. [315034]

**Barbara Follett:** The departmental costs incurred in respect of each completed judicial review on local government restructuring are as follows:

| *Challenge against the Secretary of State brought by:* | *Legal costs to Department (£)* |
|---|---|
| Bedfordshire County Council | 31,089 |
| Blyth Valley Borough Council | 3,160 |
| Devon County Council | 2,608 |
| Durham City Council | 2,500 |
| Harrogate Borough Council | 3,340 |
| Kennett District Council | 5,488 |
| Penwith District Council | 1,780 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and Congleton Borough Council | 124,000 |

In relation to all challenges against the Secretary of State, with the exception of Devon county council's, costs were awarded in full to the Secretary of State and have been recovered in full from the local authorities, with the exception of Shrewsbury and Atcham and Congleton borough councils where we are in the process of recovering costs. In the case of Devon county council the parties agreed to a settlement in respect of costs which saw the Secretary of State recover half of his costs.

| *Challenge against the Boundary Committee where the Secretary of State has been named as an interested party brought by:* | *Legal costs to Department (£)* |
|---|---|
| Breckland District Council and others | 65,435 |
| East Devon District Council | 34,154 |
| Suffolk Coastal (R oao Forest Heath District Council) | 45,852 |

The Secretary of State appeared in the cases against the Boundary Committee as an interested party and therefore did not seek costs.

## Local Government: Sustainable Development

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision in respect of bids selected by the Local Government Association in its role as Selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [314944]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government are consulting the Local Government Association in its role as selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and are seeking to reach agreement on which of the 199 short-listed proposals should be implemented. Many of the proposals are complex and raise significant practical issues but the

Government are anxious to make progress as quickly as possible on those proposals that offer practical benefits and new ways of meeting local needs.

### Local Strategic Partnerships: Members

**Jacqui Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides on the role of hon. Members as members of *(a)* local strategic partnerships and *(b)* working groups appointed by local strategic partnerships. [314155]

**Barbara Follett:** In July 2008 the Department published statutory guidance "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities" which sets out key elements of the local performance framework including the role of local strategic partnerships (LSPs). It recognises that LSPs are a collection of organisations and representatives coming together voluntarily to work in partnership; they are not statutory bodies.

It is for local areas to determine the arrangements that best suit local circumstances. The guidance therefore deliberately does not prescribe membership and members' roles for local strategic partnerships or their working groups.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of business rate revenue was raised from the *(a)* local and *(b)* central rating list in each the last three years. [314990]

**Barbara Follett:** The amount, in £ billion, and the proportion of the total non-domestic rates collected in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 in England from the local and central rating lists respectively are shown in the following table.

| | *Local list* | | *Central list* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Amount (£ billion)* | *Proportion of total (percentage)* | *Amount (£ billion)* | *Proportion of total (percentage)* |
| 2006-07 | 16.9 | 93.6 | 1.1 | 6.4 |
| 2007-08 | 17.1 | 93.6 | 1.2 | 6.4 |
| 2008-09 | 18.7 | 94.2 | 1.1 | 5.8 |

The figures shown for the local list are the amounts collected in the year, after the deduction of reliefs and the cost of collection or losses.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that petrol filling stations in rural areas are not adversely affected as a result of the Valuation Office Agency's 2010 business rate revaluation. [314833]

**Barbara Follett:** The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more and will not raise a single extra penny for Government. Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Our rural rate relief scheme provides 50 per cent. rate relief for the sole petrol station with a rateable value below £10,500 in designated rural settlements, with a discretionary power for the relevant local authority to top this up to 100 per cent. We will uprate the rateable value threshold for to £12,500 from April 1 2010 in line with the general movement of property at revaluation. This means that any rural petrol station currently eligible for this relief will continue to be eligible in the next revaluation period if their rateable value has increased in line with the average.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Lifeboats

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether lifeboat stations are eligible for business rate relief. [314967]

**Barbara Follett:** Life boat stations operated by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) will be entitled to rate relief. As a registered charity the RNLI is entitled to 80 per cent. mandatory rate relief which can be topped up to 100 per cent. at the discretion of local authorities.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 66-67WA, on Department for Communities and Local Government: meeting with MPs, which hon. Members representing constituencies with ports he has met. [313807]

**Barbara Follett:** My right hon. Friend has met with my hon. Friends the hon. Members for Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell); Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac); Brigg and Goole (Mr. Cawsey); and Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs. Ellman) regarding the backdating of national non domestic rates in ports.

### Non-Profit Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outcomes have been of the work of his Department's social enterprise unit since its inception. [315101]

**Barbara Follett:** Communities and Local Government has a Community Resource Division which is responsible for supporting the development of community-based organisations. In relation to the support for local social enterprise, the following has been achieved:

Establishing the £70 million Communitybuilders Programme which makes loans and investment available to community anchor organisations throughout England.

Introducing the £9.25 million Empowerment Fund that has directly invested in the School for Social Entrepreneurs and Social Firms UK. Social Firms UK will use the fund to develop social firms as a way of tackling worklessness, creating jobs in community-based enterprises for individuals who need this support. They will be starting up at least 50 more social firms over three years to create 250 new employment opportunities. At least a third will be for disadvantaged people who would otherwise not have such an opportunity. The Empowerment Fund will enable the SSE to enhance, expand and grow the impact of their work on empowering and supporting individuals and groups in their communities to develop skills and confidence, networks and sustainable enterprises.

Establishing the Asset Transfer Unit, which provides information, advice and a referral service on asset transfer; for example buildings that can provide a base for community enterprises.

Developing the Advancing Assets Programme which provides local authority-community sector partnerships in 72 areas with support to develop community asset transfer strategies and advance individual transfer projects. A further 30 areas are currently in process of selection for 2010-11.

Producing a series of seminars in conjunction with the Social Enterprise Coalition and the Economic and Research Council linking the impact of social enterprise to departmental policies. The seminars have brought together policy officials, academics, and social enterprise practitioners to discuss and share knowledge and experiences in interactive workshops, open discussion and an opportunity to network and forge relationships.

Conducting action research with the Office of the Third Sector to study how local authorities across the country work successfully with social enterprises.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social enterprises have received assistance from his Department's social enterprise unit; and if he will make a statement. [315102]

**Barbara Follett:** Communities and Local Government has a Community Resource Division which is responsible for supporting the development of community-based organisations. In relation to the support for local social enterprise, the following has been achieved:

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Conducting action research with the Office of the Third Sector to study how local authorities across the country work successfully with social enterprises.

It would be extremely difficult to obtain an exact number of enterprises affected as many of these programmes are ongoing and this could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of its budget his Department has allocated for assistance to social enterprises in the next three years. [315103]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department's records do not differentiate between social enterprises and other third sector organisations so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. CLG and its non-departmental public bodies has allocated over £2.5 billion to third sector organisations in the 2009-10 financial year, which is around 18 per cent. of the budget for the year. We do not have information on final allocations for 2010-11 and funding in 2011-12 will be subject to the next spending review.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department's social enterprise unit has provided to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* regional development agencies and *(c)* non-governmental organisations on procurement since its inception. [315104]

**Barbara Follett:** Communities and Local Government has worked with the Office of the Third Sector and the Improvement and Development Agency on the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning. The programme aims to increase awareness and understanding of the third sector, increase third sector involvement in commissioning and improve bidding practice. According to the evaluation of Phase 1 of the programme, 70 per cent. of commissioners said it had increased their knowledge about how to make commissioning available to third sector organisations, leading to increased shared learning and application to commissioning practices, and incorporation of core principles into frameworks, strategies and other documents.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will be hosting a round table with local authority innovation and procurement experts and third sector representatives (including social enterprise representatives) to discuss the role of the third sector in local public service commissioning.

The Department is also fully committed to, and involved in the work of, the Cabinet Committee on the third sector's involvement in public services, at which issues of procurement and commissioning will be discussed.

In addition the Department, in partnership with the Office of the Third Sector, is to undertake action research to look at how local authorities work successfully in partnership with social enterprises. This will include looking at issues of commissioning and procurement.

We intend to publish our findings to local authorities and social enterprises once the research is complete in 2011.

### Public Lavatories

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public conveniences there are in each local authority area; and how many have closed in each such area in each of the last 10 years. [314901]

**Barbara Follett:** The provision and maintenance of toilets in public places is at the discretion of local authorities who have, under section 87 of the Public Health Act 1936, a power to provide public conveniences, but no duty to do so. For this reason, the information requested is not held centrally.

### Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313583]

**Barbara Follett:** No formal assessment of costs have been made; however costs are likely to be minimal and associated with the existing salaries of staff who work on resilience matters.

### Social Rented Housing

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has given to *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority and *(c)* registered social landlords on (i) procurement priorities and (ii) social enterprises in the last three years. [315090]

**Barbara Follett:** The Office of Government Commerce is responsible for issuing guidance to the public sector on (i) procurement priorities and (ii) social enterprises.

### Supporting People Programme

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of Supporting People contracts what will not be renewed in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [314857]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government have made no such estimate. It is for local authorities to make decisions around Supporting People contracts, based on their strategic assessments of local needs.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Buildings: Ebbsfleet

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consideration he has given to the potential for the relocation of a Government office or executive agency to Ebbsfleet in the Kent Thameside growth area. [313432]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

The Lyons review which reported in 2004 suggested that a Government relocation programme could generate savings over a 15-year period and demonstrated the positive impact that well planned relocations can have on local economies. In light of this the Government set a target to relocate 20,000 Civil Servants out of London and the South East by March 2011 and increased this to 24,000 at Budget 2009.

Putting the Front Line First: Smarter Government published in December 2009 went further and announced that Ian Smith would lead an independent review on relocations. The review will report in time for Budget and will outline how at least 10 per cent. of all Civil Service posts currently based in London and the South East can be relocated in the medium term.

As part of this I have asked that the review provide recommendations which deliver a step change in the transparency of Government relocations, involving both the development of a transparent long-term pipeline, and launch of a new forum to regularly bring together local areas and OGC to structure relocation propositions that deliver better value for money.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Better Off in Work Credit: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 814W, on better off in work credit: Yorkshire, how many people have moved from benefits to work in Yorkshire under the pilot. [308399]

**Jim Knight:** The better off in work credit aims to increase people's confidence that they will be better off in work. On 21 January, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research published a report of their evaluation of the pilot. The research supports the Government's belief that most people are better off in work than on benefits. There are however a small number of situations where this may not be the case and for these customers the better off in work credit provides a useful means of support to those entering work.

Information on the number of people who moved from benefits to work in Yorkshire under the pilot is not available. 108 people received better off in work credit payments.

### Christmas

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306691]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* There is no provision for the cost of Christmas trees or decorations to be met from departmental funds and therefore there is no budget for Christmas trees in 2009.

It is up to individual teams of staff to decide whether or not to put up Christmas trees or decorations and these would be paid for by the individual employees and not departmental funds.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has carried out a disability equality impact assessment on the working age disability living allowance checklist. [314902]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The DLA checklist was taken through the equality impact assessment (EIA) screening process. The screening process demonstrated that the DLA checklist does not unlawfully discriminate against any group in relation to equality and therefore a full equality impact assessment was not required.

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research her Department has undertaken on the effect on the submission of verbal claims of the introduction of the working age disability living allowance checklist. [314903]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The DLA checklist is a tool designed to help the customer gain a better understanding of the purpose of the benefit and the entitlement criteria. Taking customers through the checklist ensures they are better informed when deciding whether or not to proceed with a claim. The decision to claim, as always, remains with the customer. The introduction of the checklist has not altered the established claiming process. It does not replace the claim form or represent a verbal claim.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to paragraph 167 on page 117 in her Department's Annual Report 2009, what assessment she has made of the reasons behind the growth of the disability living allowance (DLA) caseload; and what expenditure forecasts she has made for DLA for each of the next 10 years. [314064]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The Disability Living Allowance caseload has grown for a number of reasons, including the maturing of the benefit, which was introduced in its current form in 1992, demographic factors and increased awareness of the benefit. We currently forecast that expenditure will grow by a further 2.3 per cent. between 2009-10 and 2010-11. By convention the Treasury does not publish a projection of Annually Managed Expenditure beyond the current spending review period.

## Employment: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of disabled people who are employed (i) full and (ii) part-time in the (A) public sector and (B) private sector, in the latest period for which information is available. [314063]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* There are 5,819,000 people of working age who declare a disability that corresponds to the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability. Of these, 2,783,000 (47.8 per cent.) are in employment. Information about the number and proportion of disabled people who are in full and part time employment in the public and private sectors is in the following table.

*Number and proportion of disabled people who are in full and part time employment in the public and private sectors*

| | *Private sector* | | *Public sector* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Proportion* | *Number* | *Proportion* |
| Full time | 1,413,000 | 24 | 529,000 | 9 |
| Part time | 582,000 | 10 | 237,000 | 4 |

*Note:*
Figures do not sum to 2,783,000 as a small number of cases have missing values for either the full time/part time or the private sector/public sector variables.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey 2009, quarter 3

## Employment: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in City of York council area have moved off benefits and into work in the last 12 months. [307619]

**Jim Knight:** The available information can be found in the following table.

*Number of jobseeker's allowance claimants in York district local authority who have flowed into work in the last 12 months—November 2008 - October 2009*

| | |
|---|---|
| Found work | 3,800 |
| Increased work to 16 plus hours per week | 55 |
| Total Found Work | 3,855 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. The information is published on the Nomis website at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk.
*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only)

## Future Jobs Fund

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the 95,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs announced to date will be in each local authority area; and how many are expected to start in each such area. [304387]

**Jim Knight:** It is not possible to provide these numbers yet as there were a considerable number of national bids that did not provide a split of jobs by region or local authority.

## Incapacity Benefit: Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the Tabulation Tool on her Department's website does not contain combined information on incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance caseloads; and if she will take steps to ensure this information is available. [314061]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance combined information is available on the Working Age Client Group Tabulation Tool found at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/wa/tabtool_wa.html

Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to November 2008 the "Incapacity benefits" statistical group referred to claimants of incapacity benefit (including credits only) or severe disablement allowance, including people claiming income support on the grounds of incapacity. From November 2008, the Working Age Client Group data for "Incapacity benefits" group includes employment and support allowance and is called the "Employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits" statistical group.

### Jobcentre Plus: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projection she has made of the provision of job centres in Milton Keynes in the next five years. [312646]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what projection she has made of the future provision of job centres in Milton Keynes in the next five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has recognised that there is a need for further capacity in its central Milton Keynes office. As an interim measure some Jobcentre Plus services have been conducted out of additional premises since October 2009. Jobcentre Plus has obtained new larger premises and the current expectation is that work will move to that office from September 2010.

We will continue to monitor our estate capacity and alter it if necessary to ensure we meet customer requirements over the coming years.

I hope this information is helpful.

### Jobcentre Plus: Standards

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data her Department collects on *(a)* performance at each Jobcentre Plus office and *(b)* the average time taken for a jobseeker's interview with a personal adviser (i) for initial assessment, (ii) to make a jobseeker's agreement, (iii) to sign on and (iv) for other purposes. [309337]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what data her Department collects on (a) performance at each Jobcentre Plus office and (b) the average time taken for a jobseeker's interview with a personal adviser (i) for initial assessment, (ii) to make a jobseeker's agreement, (iii) to sign on and (iv) for other purposes. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive.

Jobcentres manage performance through a series of Targets and Key Management Indicators. The majority of these are managed at site level although some are managed at higher levels.

The performance data sets used are:

Targets:

Customer Service—how well we deliver our service to customers.

Job Outcome—the number of our customers moving into work.

Employer Engagement (Outcome Component)—how well we deliver our services to employers.

Intervention Delivery—providing timely work-focussed support.

Key Management Indicators:

Jobseeker's Allowance Off Flow—to achieve specified Jobseeker's Allowance off flow rates.

Date of Claim +3 Scheduled—the number of new claims interviews booked within 3 days.

Attendance Management—to reduce the average number of working days lost through sick absence.

Customer Compliance—to undertake compliance activities which result in a change to current benefit or a past period overpayment.

Jobseeker's Allowance Direct Payments—to promote payment of new claims into a bank account.

Local Employment Partnerships—to ensure that Jobcentre Plus meets its commitment to place both disadvantaged and newly unemployed jobseekers in to work with LEP employers.

These data sets can be supplemented by other information and used when required Data is not collated on the average length of time taken to undertake advisory interventions including a New Jobseeker Interview, making a jobseeker's agreement, to sign on and for other purposes, as the actual time taken will depend on the individual customer's needs.

I hope this information is helpful.

### Pensions Act 2008

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the effect on competition of a four year period for implementation of the provision of the Pensions Act 2008. [314264]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* I have discussed the workplace pension reforms, including the four year implementation period, with various ministerial colleagues in the usual way.

### Winter Fuel Payments: South East

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people in each local authority area in South East England waited four weeks or more to receive winter fuel payments in the last 12 months. [314548]

**Angela Eagle:** The information is not available.

## JUSTICE

### Absent Voting

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are registered to vote by post in each parliamentary constituency, ranked from highest to lowest in respect of the number in each constituency; and what percentage of the total of those on the electoral roll this represents in each such constituency. [314899]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government do not hold this information. However, the Electoral Commission has collated this information from the 2005 general election, which represents the most up to date figures for the UK. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government are aware that postal voting on demand has been well received since its introduction in 2000. At the 2009 European Parliamentary and local elections, the total number of people across the UK who were sent a postal vote was 6,318,501, equivalent to 14.2 per cent. of the total electorate. Across the UK as a whole, turnout among those who were sent a postal vote at these elections was 61.6 per cent. compared with 30.4 per cent. of those who were able to vote in person at their local polling station.

## Debt Collection

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to make regulations under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 in relation to the use of force by bailiffs. [314390]

**Bridget Prentice:** Following a reassessment of the enforcement provisions within the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 I announced, on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 46WS, that the Government would implement the provisions in part 3 of the Act while not extending bailiffs' powers of entry and the use of force by enforcement agents and the introduction of a new fee structure.

As part of the implementation process my officials conducted a pre consultation exercise during November and December 2009. They sought views from officials in other Government Departments, the enforcement industry, and the advice sector on draft regulations on the seizure of goods. Consideration has also been given to a proposed fee structure.

Following analysis of the responses on the draft regulations some redrafting and further consideration will be necessary. This will affect the commencement of the consultation process. However, it remains our intention to consult publicly in 2010 with a view to implementing the changes in April 2012.

## Departmental Legislation

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Acts sponsored by his Department since May 2007 contain provisions which are retrospective in their effect. [314845]

**Mr. Wills:** There is currently no central record of the information required. I will obtain the information and write to my hon. Friend as soon as it is available.

## Domestic Violence

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he made of the effectiveness of the use by bailiffs of powers under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and if he will make a statement. [314391]

**Bridget Prentice:** No recent assessment has been undertaken. However in accordance with their contractual obligations, bailiffs are under a duty to check with the court before forcing entry and to assess each incident.

The contracts Her Majesty's Courts Service has with private bailiff companies also require these companies to report monthly on the use of search and forced entry powers to HMCS. Under the previous AEO contracts which ran from 1 April 2006 until 30 November 2009 there were only two occasions of forced entry used by authorised enforcement agents.

## Driving Offences

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010 to question 312817, what the average fine given to a person convicted of driving without insurance was in each justice administrative area in 2008. [314785]

**Claire Ward:** Pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 860-62W, the number of average fines imposed at all courts in England and Wales in 2008 for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, is given in the following table.

*Average fine imposed at all courts for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, England and Wales, 2008*[1]

| *Police force area* | *Average amount of fine (£)* |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 184 |
| Bedfordshire | 246 |
| Cambridgeshire | 207 |
| Cheshire | 275 |
| City of London | 238 |
| Cleveland | 230 |
| Cumbria | 225 |
| Derbyshire | 339 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 193 |
| Dorset | 253 |
| Durham | 198 |
| Essex | 260 |
| Gloucestershire | 225 |
| Greater Manchester | 222 |
| Hampshire | 196 |
| Hertfordshire | 251 |
| Humberside | 219 |
| Kent | 237 |
| Lancashire | 251 |
| Leicestershire | 197 |
| Lincolnshire | 233 |
| Merseyside | 193 |
| Metropolitan Police | 238 |
| Norfolk | 202 |
| North Yorkshire | 222 |
| Northamptonshire | 203 |
| Northumbria | 186 |
| Nottinghamshire | 192 |
| South Yorkshire | 203 |
| Staffordshire | 274 |
| Suffolk | 204 |
| Surrey | 256 |
| Sussex | 216 |
| Thames Valley | 257 |
| Warwickshire | 240 |
| West Mercia | 252 |
| West Midlands | 241 |
| West Yorkshire | 190 |
| Wiltshire | 263 |
| Dyfed Powys | 230 |
| Gwent | 215 |
| North Wales | 216 |
| South Wales | 196 |
| England and Wales | 229 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Driving Offences: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed penalty notices have been given to people arrested for speeding offences on (i) the A143 and (ii) the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314867]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information held by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice on motoring convictions, cautions and fines do not include information on the specific road where the speeding took place.

### Employers' Liability: Insurance

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent meetings he has had with the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum on proposals to create an employers' liability insurance bureau. [314158]

**Bridget Prentice:**: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor and my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, Lord McKenzie, met the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum in October 2009 to discuss a number of issues relating to asbestos-related diseases, including issues relating to employers' liability insurance.

### Legal Services Commission: Interest Charges

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the interest charged on Legal Services Commission charges has been reviewed to reflect the economic situation in the last five years. [314392]

**Bridget Prentice:** The statutory charge interest rate, like many private loan interest rates, is not linked to the Bank of England rate. The interest rate has been reviewed twice in the past five years. It was set at 8 per cent. (simple interest) on 1 October 2005. On 8 June 2009 a decision was taken to leave the rate unchanged. That decision was explained in a written ministerial statement made by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Bach) on 8 June 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WS23.

### Polling Stations: Disabled

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to ensure disabled people have access to polling stations in the forthcoming General Election. [314555]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government believe that it is important that all electors have access to polling stations for all elections, including the forthcoming general election. We have introduced a number of measures to strengthen the existing arrangements and to provide additional support to make voting more accessible for all.

Local authorities are responsible for designating polling places and must carry out a full assessment of polling places at least every four years to ensure that so far as is practicable all venues are accessible to electors who are disabled.

Inside the polling station, returning officers are required to display an enlarged version of the ballot paper in polling stations and to provide upon request at polling stations, a large hand-held sample copy of the ballot paper for the assistance of visually impaired voters. Returning officers must also ensure that each polling station is supplied with a tactile voting device which is designed to enable blind and partially sighted voters to cast their vote independently without revealing their voting intentions to a third party. We have also provided that upon application to the presiding officer, all disabled voters may cast their vote with the assistance of a companion.

### Prosecutions: Misconduct

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions of officials of Government departments have been brought for misconduct in public office in each of the last six years; and how many such prosecutions have resulted in convictions. [315160]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, and found guilty at all courts for 'Misconduct in a public office', England and Wales, from 2002 to 2007 can be viewed in the table. Data held on the Court Proceedings Database do not separately identify those officials proceeded against who were working in Government Departments.

Offences of 'Misconduct in a public office' form part of a miscellaneous group of offences for which 2008 data are not yet separately available.

I will write to the hon. Gentleman when these data become available.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for 'Misconduct in a public office'[1,2] England and Wales, 2002-07[3,4,5]*

| | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 5 | 2 |
| 2003 | — | 3 |
| 2004 | 3 | 9 |
| 2005 | 10 | 4 |
| 2006[6] | 8 | 18 |
| 2007 | 21 | 16 |

[1] Is an offence under Common law.

[2] Defendants proceeded against or found guilty of conspiring, aiding or abetting a public official to commit 'Misconduct in a public office' are excluded from the data in the table.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[6] Figures provided for 2006 are the result of a validation process between the Office for Criminal Justice—Evidence and Analysis Unit and the courts.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Rape: Convictions

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of (i) men and (ii) women for offences of rape there have been in each police force area in each year since 1997. [313820]

**Claire Ward:** The number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape (including attempts) by police force area, 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following tables.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and sexual offences. From these centrally reported data it is not possible to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape[1] by sex, England and Wales 1997 to 2008[2, 3]*

| | *1997* | | | | *1998* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Female* | |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Avon and Somerset | 71 | 10 | — | — | 75 | 15 | 1 | — |
| Bedfordshire | 25 | 6 | — | — | 28 | 5 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 20 | 6 | — | — | 19 | 3 | — | — |
| Cheshire | 25 | 12 | — | — | 32 | 12 | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 13 | 7 | — | — | 20 | 5 | — | — |
| Cumbria | 12 | — | — | — | 11 | 5 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | 36 | 9 | 1 | — | 37 | 7 | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 48 | 14 | 4 | — | 39 | 20 | 1 | 3 |
| Dorset | 28 | 5 | — | — | 18 | 4 | — | — |
| Durham | 17 | 8 | — | — | 28 | 9 | — | — |
| Essex | 49 | 21 | — | — | 63 | 14 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 10 | 2 | — | — | 12 | 2 | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 158 | 30 | — | — | 151 | 54 | — | — |
| Hampshire | 70 | 28 | 2 | — | 72 | 23 | — | — |
| Hertfordshire | 29 | 13 | — | — | 20 | 8 | 1 | — |
| Humberside | 17 | 11 | — | — | 25 | 8 | — | — |
| Kent | 31 | 16 | 1 | — | 44 | 11 | 3 | — |
| Lancashire | 72 | 14 | 1 | — | 64 | 20 | — | — |
| Leicestershire | 48 | 11 | — | — | 44 | 18 | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | 26 | 8 | 1 | — | 27 | 8 | — | — |
| Merseyside | 21 | 17 | — | — | 59 | 20 | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 317 | 116 | — | — | 328 | 111 | 2 | — |
| Norfolk | 19 | 2 | — | — | 20 | 4 | 1 | — |
| North Yorkshire | 16 | 4 | — | — | 15 | 8 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 4 | 4 | — | — | 14 | 5 | — | — |
| Northumbria | 92 | 26 | — | — | 139 | 23 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 60 | 14 | 1 | — | 58 | 19 | 1 | — |
| South Yorkshire | 46 | 17 | — | — | 38 | 13 | — | — |
| Staffordshire | 42 | 13 | — | — | 34 | 11 | — | — |
| Suffolk | 19 | 6 | — | — | 28 | 7 | — | — |
| Surrey | 12 | 3 | — | — | 16 | 4 | — | — |
| Sussex | 20 | 15 | — | — | 45 | 15 | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 64 | 16 | — | — | 53 | 9 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | 6 | 1 | — | — | 9 | 3 | — | — |
| West Mercia | 30 | 13 | — | — | 35 | 12 | — | — |
| West Midlands | 107 | 38 | 1 | — | 151 | 50 | — | 1 |
| West Yorkshire | 89 | 26 | 1 | — | 105 | 48 | — | — |
| Wiltshire | 24 | 3 | — | — | 25 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | 23 | 7 | — | — | 16 | 4 | — | — |
| Gwent | 37 | 13 | — | — | 37 | 4 | — | — |
| North Wales | 31 | 8 | — | — | 33 | 11 | — | — |
| South Wales | 64 | 25 | — | — | 87 | 36 | — | — |
| England and Wales | 1,948 | 618 | 13 | — | 2,174 | 671 | 11 | 4 |

| | *1999* | | | | *2000* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Female* | |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| **Avon and Somerset** | 75 | 9 | 1 | — | 59 | 13 | — | — |
| **Bedfordshire** | 34 | 5 | — | — | 31 | 5 | — | — |
| **Cambridgeshire** | 38 | 4 | — | — | 27 | 4 | — | — |
| **Cheshire** | 29 | 13 | — | — | 33 | 12 | — | 1 |
| **City of London** | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| **Cleveland** | 17 | 12 | — | — | 17 | 8 | 1 | — |
| **Cumbria** | 17 | 4 | — | — | 7 | 3 | — | — |
| **Derbyshire** | 40 | 11 | 1 | — | 35 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| **Devon and Cornwall** | 40 | 20 | — | — | 29 | 15 | — | — |
| **Dorset** | 23 | 8 | — | — | 20 | 13 | 1 | 1 |
| **Durham** | 29 | 6 | — | — | 40 | 3 | — | — |
| **Essex** | 63 | 11 | — | — | 38 | 6 | — | — |
| **Gloucestershire** | 13 | 4 | 1 | — | 20 | 8 | — | — |
| **Greater Manchester** | 135 | 30 | — | — | 120 | 44 | 1 | — |
| **Hampshire** | 93 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 91 | 23 | — | — |
| **Hertfordshire** | 22 | 10 | — | — | 28 | 6 | — | — |
| **Humberside** | 20 | 9 | 1 | — | 26 | 6 | — | — |
| **Kent** | 36 | 14 | — | — | 50 | 20 | — | — |
| **Lancashire** | 69 | 32 | — | — | 73 | 15 | — | — |
| **Leicestershire** | 26 | 14 | — | — | 37 | 8 | — | — |
| **Lincolnshire** | 21 | 5 | — | — | 28 | 11 | — | — |
| **Merseyside** | 48 | 11 | — | — | 67 | 9 | 1 | — |
| **Metropolitan Police** | 378 | 103 | 1 | — | 337 | 108 | 3 | 2 |
| **Norfolk** | 22 | 4 | — | — | 14 | 5 | — | — |
| **North Yorkshire** | 20 | 8 | — | — | 15 | 7 | — | — |
| **Northamptonshire** | 3 | 12 | — | — | 4 | 6 | — | — |
| **Northumbria** | 113 | 23 | — | — | 94 | 19 | — | — |
| **Nottinghamshire** | 49 | 24 | 3 | — | 59 | 18 | — | 1 |
| **South Yorkshire** | 29 | 16 | — | — | 47 | 7 | — | — |
| **Staffordshire** | 27 | 17 | — | — | — | 14 | — | 1 |
| **Suffolk** | 19 | 10 | — | — | 14 | 5 | — | — |
| **Surrey** | 13 | 2 | — | — | 19 | 4 | — | — |
| **Sussex** | 41 | 10 | — | — | 47 | 9 | — | — |
| **Thames Valley** | 42 | 18 | — | — | 45 | 15 | — | — |
| **Warwickshire** | 7 | 1 | — | — | 6 | 2 | — | — |
| **West Mercia** | 26 | 10 | — | — | 20 | 5 | — | — |
| **West Midlands** | 146 | 38 | — | — | 156 | 37 | — | — |
| **West Yorkshire** | 141 | 46 | 5 | — | 135 | 41 | — | — |
| **Wiltshire** | 15 | 1 | — | — | 9 | 4 | — | — |
| **Dyfed-Powys** | 32 | 5 | 1 | — | 25 | 5 | — | — |
| **Gwent** | 36 | 11 | — | — | 24 | 10 | 1 | — |
| **North Wales** | 27 | 9 | — | — | 24 | 4 | — | — |
| **South Wales** | 79 | 29 | 1 | — | 64 | 22 | 1 | — |
| **England and Wales** | 2,153 | 658 | 16 | 1 | 2,035 | 591 | 11 | 7 |

| | *2001* | | | | *2002* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Female* | |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| **Avon and Somerset** | 94 | 15 | 2 | — | 86 | 13 | — | — |
| **Bedfordshire** | 25 | 11 | — | — | 31 | 7 | — | — |
| **Cambridgeshire** | 33 | 7 | — | — | 24 | 9 | — | — |
| **Cheshire** | 36 | 7 | — | — | 35 | 10 | — | — |
| **City of London** | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| **Cleveland** | 21 | 5 | — | — | 34 | 11 | 1 | — |
| **Cumbria** | 37 | 6 | 1 | — | 27 | 6 | — | — |
| **Derbyshire** | 37 | 4 | 1 | — | 44 | 8 | — | 1 |
| **Devon and Cornwall** | 35 | 13 | — | — | 17 | 17 | — | — |
| **Dorset** | 41 | 4 | — | — | 30 | 8 | — | — |

| | 2001 | | | | 2002 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| Force | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
| Durham | 38 | 3 | — | — | 39 | 5 | — | — |
| Essex | 46 | 9 | 1 | — | 60 | 7 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 14 | 1 | — | — | 32 | 2 | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 163 | 42 | 1 | — | 201 | 36 | 2 | — |
| Hampshire | 107 | 23 | 1 | — | 112 | 28 | — | — |
| Hertfordshire | 28 | 8 | — | — | 35 | 10 | — | — |
| Humberside | 22 | 8 | — | — | 37 | 12 | 1 | — |
| Kent | 47 | 20 | 1 | — | 74 | 20 | 3 | — |
| Lancashire | 90 | 20 | — | — | 98 | 17 | — | — |
| Leicestershire | 50 | 6 | — | — | 55 | 9 | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | 21 | 5 | — | — | 35 | 10 | — | — |
| Merseyside | 85 | 28 | — | — | 103 | 17 | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 446 | 88 | 1 | 1 | 573 | 118 | 2 | 1 |
| Norfolk | 23 | 5 | 1 | — | 21 | 10 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 26 | 7 | — | — | 28 | 10 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 6 | 9 | — | — | 4 | 8 | — | — |
| Northumbria | 77 | 21 | 2 | 1 | 64 | 25 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 78 | 29 | 1 | — | 62 | 15 | 1 | — |
| South Yorkshire | 59 | 17 | — | — | 62 | 22 | 1 | — |
| Staffordshire | 63 | 9 | — | — | 60 | 14 | — | — |
| Suffolk | 25 | 1 | — | — | 35 | 7 | 1 | — |
| Surrey | 26 | 7 | — | — | 26 | 6 | 1 | — |
| Sussex | 49 | 9 | — | — | 53 | 12 | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 62 | 16 | — | — | 52 | 18 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | 5 | 2 | — | — | 10 | 1 | — | — |
| West Mercia | 50 | 8 | — | — | 48 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 213 | 44 | — | — | 250 | 34 | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | 167 | 25 | 1 | — | 133 | 20 | 1 | — |
| Wiltshire | 21 | 3 | — | — | 32 | 10 | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | 16 | 2 | — | — | 21 | 3 | — | — |
| Gwent | 41 | 9 | — | — | 51 | 16 | 2 | — |
| North Wales | 27 | 3 | — | — | 30 | 7 | — | — |
| South Wales | 86 | 11 | 1 | — | 100 | 22 | 1 | — |
| England and Wales | 2,636 | 570 | 15 | 2 | 2,927 | 652 | 18 | 3 |

| | 2003 | | | | 2004 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| Force | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
| Avon and Somerset | 83 | 20 | — | — | 76 | 24 | 1 | — |
| Bedfordshire | 22 | 8 | — | — | 35 | 13 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 21 | 6 | — | — | 27 | 4 | — | — |
| Cheshire | 39 | 13 | — | — | 37 | 13 | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 37 | 9 | — | — | 26 | 10 | — | — |
| Cumbria | 22 | 8 | — | — | 18 | 11 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | 57 | 13 | — | — | 58 | 21 | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 10 | 18 | — | — | 21 | 16 | — | — |
| Dorset | 17 | 3 | — | — | 19 | 6 | — | — |
| Durham | 25 | 1 | — | — | 34 | 9 | 1 | — |
| Essex | 52 | 7 | — | — | 54 | 12 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 16 | 8 | — | — | 21 | 1 | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 214 | 41 | 2 | — | 198 | 36 | 1 | — |
| Hampshire | 101 | 13 | — | — | 93 | 19 | 2 | — |
| Hertfordshire | 38 | 10 | — | — | 55 | 13 | — | — |
| Humberside | 35 | 13 | — | — | 34 | 10 | 1 | — |
| Kent | 55 | 9 | — | — | 59 | 11 | — | 1 |
| Lancashire | 73 | 20 | 1 | — | 79 | 21 | — | — |
| Leicestershire | 48 | 17 | 1 | — | 43 | 12 | — | — |

| | *2003* | | | | *2004* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Female* | |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Lincolnshire | 25 | 6 | 1 | — | 32 | 6 | — | — |
| Merseyside | 96 | 15 | — | — | 68 | 23 | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 637 | 132 | — | — | 514 | 120 | 1 | 1 |
| Norfolk | 19 | 5 | — | — | 10 | 10 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 22 | 6 | — | — | 50 | 15 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 6 | 10 | — | — | 20 | 16 | — | — |
| Northumbria | 82 | 22 | — | — | 59 | 23 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 66 | 13 | 2 | — | 68 | 13 | — | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | 56 | 20 | — | — | 66 | 26 | — | — |
| Staffordshire | 50 | 11 | 1 | — | 53 | 17 | — | — |
| Suffolk | 28 | 7 | 1 | — | 29 | 3 | — | — |
| Surrey | 33 | 5 | — | — | 16 | 5 | — | — |
| Sussex | 41 | 18 | — | — | 54 | 13 | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 61 | 14 | — | — | 55 | 18 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | 9 | 1 | — | — | 7 | 3 | — | — |
| West Mercia | 40 | 12 | — | — | 46 | 15 | — | — |
| West Midlands | 235 | 57 | — | — | 217 | 58 | 1 | — |
| West Yorkshire | 131 | 34 | 1 | 2 | 101 | 51 | — | 1 |
| Wiltshire | 29 | 7 | — | — | 29 | 6 | 1 | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | 13 | 2 | — | — | 33 | 5 | — | — |
| Gwent | 49 | 12 | 2 | — | 44 | 6 | — | 1 |
| North Wales | 15 | 7 | — | — | 31 | 8 | — | — |
| South Wales | 68 | 18 | 2 | — | 89 | 24 | 1 | — |
| England and Wales | 2,776 | 671 | 14 | 2 | 2,679 | 746 | 10 | 5 |

| | *2005* | | | | *2006* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Female* | |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceed against* | *Found guilty* |
| Avon and Somerset | 59 | 12 | — | — | 69 | 17 | — | — |
| Bedfordshire | 27 | 9 | — | — | 19 | 5 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 28 | 11 | — | — | 23 | 6 | — | — |
| Cheshire | 45 | 12 | — | — | 36 | 21 | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 48 | 9 | — | — | 41 | 18 | — | — |
| Cumbria | 18 | 7 | — | — | 16 | 6 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | 70 | 14 | — | — | 53 | 24 | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 19 | 24 | — | — | 30 | 21 | — | — |
| Dorset | 21 | 6 | — | — | 25 | 10 | — | — |
| Durham | 36 | 8 | — | — | 36 | 7 | — | — |
| Essex | 50 | 13 | — | — | 37 | 15 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 15 | 3 | — | — | 29 | 13 | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 203 | 51 | — | — | 188 | 55 | — | — |
| Hampshire | 105 | 28 | — | — | 67 | 31 | — | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 48 | 8 | 3 | — | 57 | 7 | — | 1 |
| Humberside | 48 | 16 | — | 1 | 48 | 30 | 1 | — |
| Kent | 59 | 20 | — | — | 71 | 22 | — | — |
| Lancashire | 114 | 20 | — | — | 85 | 31 | — | — |
| Leicestershire | 49 | 13 | — | — | 40 | 9 | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | 33 | 14 | 1 | — | 17 | 9 | — | — |
| Merseyside | 45 | 28 | — | — | 45 | 18 | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 638 | 118 | 2 | — | 587 | 150 | 2 | 1 |
| Norfolk | 4 | 11 | — | — | 4 | 17 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 32 | 11 | — | — | 36 | 13 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 19 | 7 | — | — | 14 | 11 | — | 1 |
| Northumbria | 62 | 15 | — | — | 64 | 25 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 60 | 20 | — | — | 52 | 17 | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | 70 | 40 | — | — | 66 | 27 | — | — |
| Staffordshire | 48 | 16 | — | — | 52 | 10 | — | — |

|  | *2005* |  |  |  | *2006* |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Male* |  | *Female* |  | *Male* |  | *Female* |  |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceed against* | *Found guilty* |
| Suffolk | 38 | 9 | — | — | 39 | 12 | — | — |
| Surrey | 27 | 4 | — | — | 21 | 5 | — | — |
| Sussex | 64 | 12 | 1 | — | 58 | 13 | — | — |
| Thames Valley | 91 | 23 | 1 | — | 86 | 23 | — | 1 |
| Warwickshire | 12 | 7 | — | 1 | 12 | 6 | — | — |
| West Mercia | 49 | 14 | — | — | 41 | 14 | — | — |
| West Midlands | 170 | 68 | 1 | 2 | 174 | 53 | 2 | 1 |
| West Yorkshire | 118 | 52 | — | — | 67 | 42 | — | — |
| Wiltshire | 31 | 4 | — | — | 21 | 13 | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | 12 | 6 | — | — | 12 | 3 | — | — |
| Gwent | 40 | 7 | — | — | 44 | 7 | — | — |
| North Wales | 21 | 3 | — | — | 20 | 5 | — | — |
| South Wales | 71 | 19 | — | — | 60 | 16 | — | — |
| England and Wales | 2,817 | 792 | 9 | 4 | 2,562 | 857 | 5 | 6 |

|  | *2007* |  |  |  | *2008* |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Male* |  | *Female* |  | *Male* |  | *Female* |  |
| *Force* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Avon and Somerset | 69 | 19 | — | — | 45 | 13 | — | — |
| Bedfordshire | 17 | 8 | — | — | 20 | 9 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 27 | 7 | 1 | — | 28 | 9 | — | 1 |
| Cheshire | 29 | 13 | — | — | 33 | 27 | — | — |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 35 | 23 | — | — | 34 | 10 | — | — |
| Cumbria | 20 | 9 | — | — | 13 | 4 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | 53 | 15 | — | — | 38 | 12 | — | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 38 | 22 | — | — | 32 | 25 | — | — |
| Dorset | 21 | 3 | 1 | — | 10 | 16 | — | — |
| Durham | 28 | 5 | — | — | 32 | 18 | — | — |
| Essex | 19 | 9 | — | — | 38 | 19 | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | 32 | 6 | — | — | 20 | 9 | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | 195 | 50 | 1 | — | 175 | 72 | — | — |
| Hampshire | 103 | 27 | 1 | — | 91 | 27 | — | — |
| Hertfordshire | 25 | 12 | — | — | 22 | 11 | — | — |
| Humberside | 27 | 24 | — | — | 36 | 14 | — | — |
| Kent | 69 | 27 | 1 | — | 52 | 37 | — | — |
| Lancashire | 87 | 28 | — | — | 67 | 37 | — | — |
| Leicestershire | 31 | 14 | — | — | 34 | 10 | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | 13 | 7 | — | — | 20 | 8 | — | — |
| Merseyside | 38 | 16 | — | — | 44 | 13 | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 553 | 156 | 4 | — | 564 | 173 | 2 | — |
| Norfolk | 11 | 12 | — | — | 32 | 11 | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | 31 | 18 | — | — | 37 | 11 | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 2 | 11 | — | — | 21 | 10 | — | — |
| Northumbria | 54 | 23 | — | — | 56 | 19 | — | — |
| Nottinghamshire | 41 | 21 | — | — | 42 | 18 | — | — |
| South Yorkshire | 56 | 27 | — | — | 53 | 25 | — | — |
| Staffordshire | 43 | 21 | — | — | 42 | 18 | — | — |
| Suffolk | 19 | 4 | — | 1 | 15 | 5 | — | — |
| Surrey | 19 | 5 | — | — | 17 | 8 | — | — |
| Sussex | 43 | 26 | — | — | 65 | 16 | 1 | — |
| Thames Valley | 63 | 26 | — | — | 57 | 23 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | 10 | 3 | — | — | 12 | 6 | — | — |
| West Mercia | 24 | 10 | — | — | 39 | 10 | — | — |
| West Midlands | 171 | 57 | — | 1 | 155 | 99 | — | — |
| West Yorkshire | 77 | 49 | — | — | 130 | 53 | — | — |
| Wiltshire | 22 | 8 | 1 | — | 29 | 12 | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | 13 | 5 | 1 | — | 15 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Gwent | 37 | 16 | — | — | 36 | 8 | 1 | — |
| North Wales | 14 | 11 | — | — | 27 | 8 | — | — |
| South Wales | 72 | 18 | 1 | — | 61 | 25 | — | — |

| | 2007 | | | | 2008 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| Force | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
| England and Wales | 2,351 | 871 | 12 | 2 | 2,390 | 921 | 5 | 1 |

[1] Includes: Rape and attempted rape of a female or male.

[2] Includes: Conspiracies, charges of participation in offences as accessories after the fact and charges of participation in offences by impeding the apprehension or prosecution of the offender.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

*Note:*

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Youth Custody

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles sentenced to a custodial sentence in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which information is available had served (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five and (vi) more than five previous custodial sentences. [314276]

**Claire Ward:** Figures for juveniles given immediate custodial sentences for indictable or triable-either-way offences are shown in the following table. These figures represent a further breakdown of the statistics in table 6.8 of "Sentencing Statistics 2008" which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Figures for 1997 are not available; the table shows figures for 2000, the earliest year for which this breakdown can be provided.

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

*Juvenile offenders receiving immediate custodial sentences for indictable offences, by the number of previous immediate custodial sentences, 2000 and 2008, England and Wales*

*Number of offenders and percentages*

| | 2000 | | 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of previous custodial sentences | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 0 | 3,879 | 62 | 3,560 | 55 |
| 1 | 1,283 | 21 | 1,264 | 19 |
| 2 | 583 | 9 | 687 | 11 |
| 3 | 251 | 4 | 407 | 6 |
| 4 | 131 | 2 | 252 | 4 |
| 5 | 60 | 1 | 130 | 2 |
| 6 or more | 40 | 1 | 187 | 3 |
| Total | 6,227 | 100 | 6,487 | 100 |

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been started under the National Apprenticeship Service in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* nationally since its inception. [312809]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The National Apprenticeship Service was set up in April 2009. Information on apprenticeship starts and achievements is shown on an academic year basis. For the 2008/09 academic year there were 1,600 apprenticeship starts in Coventry local authority and 239,900 apprenticeship starts in England, the largest number of people starting an apprenticeship ever.

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Supplementary table 6 shows apprenticeship starts by quarter for 2003/04 onwards.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. The figure for Coventry local authority is based upon home postcode of the learner.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated to the National Apprenticeship Service since its inception. [312811]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Since its inception on 1 April 2009, the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has been allocated £1.085 billion for Apprenticeship training and £36.5 million discretionary non-participation funds for the financial year April 2009 to March 2010. Funding for Apprenticeships for young people aged 16 to 18 is allocated by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Funding for Apprenticeships for adults aged 19 and over is allocated by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The breakdown of funding allocations between the Departments is as follows:

*£000*

| | BIS | DCSF | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apprenticeship Participation | 389,914 | 695,054 | 1,084,968 |
| Non-Participation (Revenue) | 25,595 | 8,000 | 33,595 |
| Non-Participation (Capital) | — | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| Total | 415,509 | 705,954 | 1,121,463 |

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people completed an apprenticeship in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [313064]

**Kevin Brennan:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship framework achievements from 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data is available.

*Table 1. Apprenticeship frameworks achievements, England, 2003/04 to 2008/09*

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jarrow parliamentary constituency | 100 | 210 | 250 | 300 | 280 | 380 |
| South Tyneside local authority | 200 | 300 | 400 | 600 | 500 | 700 |
| North-East region | 3,700 | 5,200 | 7,200 | 8,000 | 7,600 | 10,000 |
| England | 49,300 | 67,200 | 98,700 | 111,800 | 112,600 | 143,400 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for Jarrow parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10. All other figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures for England include learners studying in England, but who are resident outside of England e.g. Scotland.
3. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency, local authority, Government Office Region and for England is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to encourage young people to undertake apprenticeships in Coventry. [314601]

**Kevin Brennan:** The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has responsibility for the delivery of apprenticeships and provides a single point of contact for employers and apprentices, and across the West Midlands is working with employers to increase the number of people starting and completing apprenticeships.

We are taking a wide range of measures to increase the number of people taking up an apprenticeship and to encourage more employers to offer high quality places. We have increased spending to over £1 billion in 2009-10. Apprenticeship starts in Coventry increased from 1,000 in 2003/04, to 1,600 in 2008/09. Nationally, apprenticeship starts increased from 65,000 in 1996/97 to a record 240,000 in 2008/09.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to increase coordination between training providers, businesses, schools and further education establishments on providing information on apprenticeships. [314602]

**Kevin Brennan:** In April 2009 we launched the National Apprenticeship Service which is now responsible for end-to-end delivery of apprenticeships, and leads the co-ordination of all parties engaged in them, unproved co-ordination measures to date have included:

Working with schools to ensure that young people (and their carers/parents) are aware of the features and benefits of apprenticeships, and to encourage young people to register on the apprenticeship vacancies on line system. This includes developing a new schools resource pack on apprenticeships for those delivering information, advice and guidance.

Local authorities and Connexions Partnerships working jointly to develop and organise events that co-ordinate activity across partner organisations including FE colleges and private training providers to engage apprentices, parents and employers.

Education and Business Partnerships reviewing and sharing information about their respective employer accounts enabling access to material to promote apprenticeships in addition to their own programmes.

Working with the Association of Colleges to improve links between FE and apprenticeships within their institutions.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place for the allocation of funding to training providers under the scheme for apprentices over the age of 19 years after 1 April 2010; and how much such funding he plans to provide in each of the next three years. [314707]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Skills Funding Agency will have responsibility for the funding for apprenticeships for those aged 19 or over from 1 April 2010. Payments will be made in line with the approach currently used by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

Each training organisation will discuss and agree their Maximum Contract Value (MCV) for the following academic year with their account manager. Discussions for 2010-11 academic year are currently underway. Training organisations will be paid monthly in arrears based on delivery within agreed MCVs.

Planned investment through the Skills Funding Agency for apprenticeships aged 19 or over in the 2009-10 financial year is £389.9 million, increasing to £398.4 million in the 2010-11 financial year. Investment for the 2011-12 financial year and beyond will not be finalised until the outcomes of the next Spending Review have been determined.

## Apprentices: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which will be taken up by people over 24 years old in Milton Keynes in the next five years. [313954]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on projected apprenticeship volumes is not available by local authority.

In 2008/09, there were 280 apprenticeship starts by learners aged 25 and over in Milton Keynes local authority.

Nationally, in our Skills Strategy (Skills for Growth, November 2009) we promised to boost Advanced and Higher Apprenticeship opportunities for 19 to 30-year-olds.

*Notes:*

1. Figures for local authority are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. This figure is based on age at start of programme and upon the home postcode of the learner.

### Broadband: North West

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the North West which will have broadband internet access after the Universal Service Commitment has been fulfilled in 2012. [314220]

**Mr. Timms:** We have not carried out a specific estimate of the areas in question. Our ambition is to ensure a service is available to all households and businesses in the UK. There may be some areas which for technical reasons prove prohibitively expensive to serve using any technologies but I expect these to be fewer than 1 per cent. of households and businesses. These premises—if any—will be identified through the tender process.

### Data Protection: EC Law

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 267W, on internet privacy, what the results were of his recent discussions on revisions to the E-privacy Directive 2002/58/EC. [314694]

**Mr. Timms:** My predecessor, the Lord Carter, met his European counterparts and the European Commission as part of the discussion and negotiations on the telecommunication framework. The final results of these negotiations were published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 18 December 2009.

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) is now undertaking the process of transposing the directive into UK law. This has to be completed by 25 May 2011.

Stakeholder consultation on implementing the revisions of the E-privacy Directive (2002/58/EC) will take place later in 2010.

### Digital Broadcasting: Radio

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 420-21W, on digital broadcasting: radio, whether the notice period constitutes the time during which the programme making and special events sector has been able to replace equipment due to be rendered redundant with alternatives that will be usable beyond 2012; and if he will make a statement. [313179]

**Mr. Timms:** Ofcom is responsible for the assignment of radio frequencies. The notice period runs from when Ofcom notifies Programme Making and Special Events users that they would have to vacate the channels that they were using.

### Employment: Contracts

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of employees who were employed on *(a)* short-term contracts, *(b)* fixed-term appointments and *(c)* an agency supply basis in each region in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009, broken down by (A) full-time and (B) part-time workers. [314035]

**Ian Lucas** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* The estimates of the number of employees who were employed on short-term contracts is not collected centrally.

*(b)* The estimates of the number of employees who were employed on fixed-term appointments from the Office for National Statistics' Annual Population Survey (APS) are provided in the following table by region and full-time or part-time status for the calendar years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Full information for 2009 is not yet available.

*Fixed-period/term workers by region and full-time/part-time status*

| | 2006 | | | 2007 | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* |
| England | 324,000 | 183,000 | 507,000 | 303,000 | 174,000 | 478,000 | 292,000 | 175,000 | 467,000 |
| North East | 21,000 | * | 30,000 | 22,000 | * | 32,000 | 21,000 | * | 28,000 |
| North West | 45,000 | 22,000 | 67,000 | 41,000 | 23,000 | 65,000 | 39,000 | 19,000 | 58,000 |
| Yorks and Humber | 34,000 | 18,000 | 52,000 | 28,000 | 17,000 | 45,000 | 26,000 | 20,000 | 45,000 |
| East Midlands | 23,000 | 18,000 | 40,000 | 21,000 | 16,000 | 36,000 | 17,000 | 18,000 | 34,000 |
| West Midlands | 23,000 | 16,000 | 39,000 | 24,000 | 13,000 | 37,000 | 22,000 | 15,000 | 37,000 |
| East | 30,000 | 21,000 | 51,000 | 31,000 | 20,000 | 52,000 | 38,000 | 23,000 | 61,000 |
| London | 62,000 | 27,000 | 89,000 | 59,000 | 27,000 | 87,000 | 60,000 | 23,000 | 83,000 |
| South East | 56,000 | 33,000 | 90,000 | 40,000 | 30,000 | 70,000 | 43,000 | 30,000 | 73,000 |
| South West | 31,000 | 19,000 | 50,000 | 28,000 | 19,000 | 46,000 | 27,000 | 19,000 | 46,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Wales | 22,000 | 11,000 | 33,000 | 23,000 | 12,000 | 34,000 | 20,000 | 12,000 | 31,000 |
| Scotland | 40,000 | 23,000 | 63,000 | 41,000 | 24,000 | 66,000 | 38,000 | 18,000 | 56,000 |
| Northern Ireland | * | * | 14,000 | * | * | 13,000 | * | * | 14,000 |

*Fixed-period/term workers by region and full-time/part-time status*

| | 2006 | | | 2007 | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* |
| UK | 394,000 | 223,000 | 617,000 | 376,000 | 215,000 | 591,000 | 359,000 | 209,000 | 568,000 |

"*" = Reliable figures are not available due to small sample sizes.
*Source:*
ONS' Annual Population Survey (January to December). Numbers rounded to nearest thousand

*(c)* The best estimate of employees who were employed on an agency supply basis comes from BIS' Survey of Recruitment Agencies (SORA) 2007 and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) 'Census' 2006. Together they estimate there are around 1.3 million agency workers in the UK. ONS' Annual Population Survey (APS) own estimate of around 250,000 is known to underestimate the number of agency workers.

Detailed information based on the SORA/REC estimate is not available. However, the following table splits this estimate by region and full-time or part-time status using the proportions from the latest APS in order to provide some indication of the scale at a sub national level.

*Agency workers by region and full-time/part-time status*

| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 785,000 | 373,000 | 1,158,000 |
| North East | 38,000 | 15,000 | 53,000 |
| North West | 98,000 | 34,000 | 133,000 |
| Yorks and Humber | 90,000 | 45,000 | 134,000 |
| East Midlands | 94,000 | 38,000 | 132,000 |
| West Midlands | 67,000 | 45,000 | 112,000 |
| East | 103,000 | 32,000 | 135,000 |
| London | 140,000 | 53,000 | 193,000 |
| South East | 106,000 | 70,000 | 176,000 |
| South West | 48,000 | 41,000 | 90,000 |
| Wales | 35,000 | * | 43,000 |
| Scotland | 56,000 | 20,000 | 76,000 |
| Northern Ireland | 16,000 | * | 23,000 |
| UK | 892,000 | 408,000 | 1,300,000 |

"*" = Reliable figures are not available due to small sample sizes.
*Source:*
ONS' Annual Population Survey (April 2008 to March 2009) proportions are applied to 1.3 million agency workers estimated by BIS' Survey of Recruitment Agencies (SORA) 2007 and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) 'Census' 2006

## Export Credit Guarantees

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 12 June 2000, *Official Report*, column 464W, on the Export Credits Guarantee Department—ECGD—if he will break down the figures for the financial years *(a)* 1999-2000, *(b)* 2000-01, *(c)* 2001-02, *(d)* 2002-03, *(e)* 2003-04, *(f)* 2004-05, *(g)* 2005-06, *(h)* 2006-07, *(i)* 2007-08 and *(j)* 2008-09 by country. [314021]

**Ian Lucas:** Details of the information being sought have not been provided by country as to do so would potentially reveal information that is commercially confidential or be prejudicial to international relations or both. However, aggregate information in respect of each of the years is provided in the following table. Information about recoveries received in respect of claims paid has not been provided as ECGD is unable to disaggregate recoveries as between civil and defence business that are received under multilaterally agreed Paris Club debt rescheduling agreements. ECGD does not hold a breakdown of interest rate support costs by country or sector; such information could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

*£ million*

| | *Premium earned* | *Claims paid* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 24.87 | 152.00 |
| 2000-2001 | 72.07 | 179.00 |
| 2001-2002 | 9.28 | 125.00 |
| 2002-2003 | 33.58 | 99.00 |
| 2003-2004 | 25.05 | 69.00 |
| 2004-2005 | 18.80 | nil |
| 2005-2006 | 16.34 | nil |
| 2006-2007 | 29.25 | nil |
| 2007-2008 | 34.49 | nil |
| 2008-2009 | 0.75 | nil |

*Note:*
Claims paid do not relate to premium earned in the same year. The claims relate to exports supported many years previously; the premiums were earned at the time ECGD came on risk for the exports in question.

## Further Education: Finance

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the funding formulae for further education courses. [314274]

**Kevin Brennan:** Our current funding system for provision for further education (FE) and skills has three models: 16 to 18-year-old learners: Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive. This new funding model was adopted in the 2008/09 academic year following extensive consultation with schools, FE colleges and other training organisations.

To assess the possible impact of the new system on the diversity of learners, particularly with regard to gender, race and disability, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) commissioned a single equality impact assessment review in November 2007. This review found no evidence of direct discrimination as result of the design or implementation of the changes to the funding system. To evaluate the operational impact of demand-led funding after its first year of funding, the LSC Board has commissioned an independent review. This will evaluate views of FE colleges and training organisations who deliver provision for learners aged 16 and over. It will also look at national datasets to assess what effect the new funding system may have had on volumes and types of learner. The review is ongoing and is expected to report in the spring.

### Graduates: Vocational Training

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost per head of providing training for all graduates under the age of 24 years who have been unemployed for at least six months. [309542]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The training elements of the Graduate Guarantee will be delivered through the work-focused training parts of the Six Month Offer and Young Person's Guarantee, the average costs of which are estimated to be £1,100 and £1,500, respectively.

Training typically lasts between eight and 26 weeks.

### Greenwich University

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the capacity of the University of Greenwich to find suitable teaching placements for its Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector for students; and if he will make a statement. [314086]

**Kevin Brennan:** To be able to deliver a DTLLS course, the university of Greenwich will have had to gain endorsement for their course by Standards Verification UK (SVUK), the body responsible for the verification of Further Education Initial Teacher Training qualifications.

A core requirement for a DTLLS course, without which endorsement by SVUK would not be granted, is that there must be provision for a minimum of 150 hours of teaching practice. No one can complete their DTLLS qualification without undergoing appropriate and satisfactory teaching practice.

Placements for those undertaking DTLLS are negotiated on an ongoing basis by the university delivering the course with the FE and other education providers in their surrounding areas.

### Higher Education

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have discussed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England a timetable to take forward its six proposals for new higher education centres under its University Challenge initiative. [314915]

**Mr. Lammy:** As set out in Higher Ambitions, we are committed to the enhancement of locally accessible higher education through a new University Challenge initiative. In October last year, HEFCE announced that six further outline proposals could be taken forward, including one in the Wirral. The timing for submission of full business cases will be decided in the context of the next spending review.

### Higher Education: Part-time Education

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many part-time students have registered for a higher education course at *(a)* Newcastle college, *(b)* Northumbria university and *(c)* Newcastle university in each year since 2006. [313758]

**Mr. Lammy:** The numbers of part-time entrants to Northumbria university and Newcastle university in each year since 2006 are provided in the table. Information for part-time entrants to Newcastle college is not available.

*Part-time entrants[1] to Northumbria university and Newcastle university academic years 2006/07 to 2008/09*

| *Academic year* | *Northumbria university* | *Newcastle university* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 4,965 | 620 |
| 2007/08 | 5,205 | 705 |
| 2008/09 | 5,475 | 675 |

[1] Covers entrants of all ages and domiciles to postgraduate and undergraduate courses.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

### National Vocational Qualifications

**Alan Keen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the five most popular NVQ level 4 qualifications were in the latest period for which figures are available. [313297]

**Mr. Lammy:** NVQ level 4 courses are offered by English higher education institutions and further education colleges, as well as in the workplace. The five NVQ level 4 courses with the highest numbers of enrolments at English higher education institutions are provided in table 1. Figures are for the 2008/09 academic year.

The five Learning and Skills Council-funded NVQ level 4 courses with the highest numbers of enrolments are provided in table 2. These figures are provisional and cover the 2008/09 academic year.

Note that the course classifications used by the Higher Education Statistics Agency and the LSC are different and so it is not possible to combine the figures in tables 1 and 2.

*Table 1: NVQ level 4 enrolments[1] by subject of study: English higher education institutions academic year 2008/09*

| *Subject of study* | *Enrolments* |
|---|---|
| Business studies | 2,775 |
| Others in social studies | 2,325 |
| Academic studies in education | 2,205 |
| Social work | 1,740 |
| Others in biological sciences | 1,735 |

[1] Covers students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on HESA Standard Registration Population.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

*Table 2: LSC-funded NVQ level 4 enrolments in England academic year 2008/09[1]*

| *Learning Aim* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| NVQ in Accounting | 8,800 |
| NVQ in Health and Social Care | 4,800 |
| NVQ in Management | 3,000 |
| NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development | 2,300 |

*Table 2: LSC-funded NVQ level 4 enrolments in England academic year 2008/09[1]*

| *Learning Aim* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services | 2,100 |

[1] Figures for the 2008/09 academic year are provisional.
*Notes:*
1. Includes aims studied at colleges and other providers through FE and Train to Gain (TTG).
LSC: Learning and Skills Council
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
*Source:*
Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive (Train to Gain) Individualised Learner Record

## Overseas Trade: Kazakhstan

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of trade between the UK and Kazakhstan was in each of the last three years. [314629]

**Ian Lucas:** Data on recorded trade in goods with Kazakhstan are shown in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *UK exports of goods to Kazakhstan* | *UK imports of goods from Kazakhstan* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 206 | 82 |
| 2007 | 297 | 200 |
| 2008 | 209 | 112 |
| 2009[1] | 244 | 159 |

[1] January to November.
*Source:*
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Consistent estimates of trade in services are not available for the full three years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2009 were:

*£ million*

| | *UK exports of services to Kazakhstan* | *UK imports of services from Kazakhstan* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 894 | 402 |
| 2008 | 915 | 363 |

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what barriers to increasing trade between the UK and Kazakhstan his Department has identified. [314636]

**Ian Lucas:** The UK has worked closely with the European Commission, business and EU member states in identifying key market access barriers to trade with Kazakhstan as part of the EU's Market Access Strategy. The department has also been following the process of Kazakhstan's WTO accession process as an avenue for improving market access for UK business.

While we are working to reduce the negative impact of several market access problems, Kazakhstan offers many good opportunities for UK companies to do profitable business. UKTI is actively exploring the potential in the energy, education and financial services sectors.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which 10 UK companies had the highest monetary value of trade with Kazakhstan in each of the last three years. [314637]

**Ian Lucas:** For reasons of commercial and statistical confidentiality, neither HM Revenue and Customs nor the Office for National Statistics publish details of the value of trade for individual companies.

## Risk and Regulation Advisory Council: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 344W, on Risk and Regulation Advisory Council: public relations, for what reasons departmental officials were not used to undertake the work under the contracts with external public relations firms. [314848]

**Ian Lucas:** The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council (RRAC) was set up as an independent ad hoc advisory body. The small support team within the Strategic Policy Analysis Group in BERR (now BIS) did not have the resources or specialist knowledge required to manage communications and public relations in-house. The use of internal (BERR) resources was not a viable option, as it would compromise the RRAC's independence. As an advisory body independent of government, the RRAC could not have public relations and communications support handled by Government communications and press offices.

## Telecommunications

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the ability of third party services to provide access to next generation and mobile networks. [310971]

**Mr. Timms:** Regulation of access to communications networks is a matter for the regulator, Ofcom. The Government would expect all networks built using public funds to conform to an open access model to enable third parties to offer services.

## Trade: Developing Countries

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the prospects for agreement in the Doha trade round. [314789]

**Ian Lucas:** At the Pittsburgh summit in September G20 leaders renewed their commitment to conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in 2010, and instructed Ministers to take stock of the situation no later than early 2010. At the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regular ministerial meeting in Geneva in December, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to conclude the round in 2010 and for a stock take in the first quarter of the year. Discussions are continuing among senior officials at the WTO. Pascal Lamy, the WTO director general, has said that the format and content of the stock take has yet to be decided. Much will be dependent on progress between now and then.

The Government remain fully committed to an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha round. We will continue to work closely with our EU and international partners to conclude the round as early as possible.

### Train to Gain Programme: Devon

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many residents of *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Torbay constituency who have registered for Train to Gain courses have not yet commenced their training; [313166]

(2) how many people resident in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Torbay constituency have successfully completed a Train to Gain course. [313167]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information is not collected centrally on the number of learners who have registered for a Train to Gain course but have not yet started their training.

Table 1 shows the number of Train to Gain Achievements in Devon local authority and Torbay parliamentary constituency in 2008/09.

*Table 1: Train to Gain Achievements, 2008/09*

| | *Number of Achievements* |
|---|---|
| Devon local authority | 6,200 |
| Torbay parliamentary constituency | 1,070 |

*Notes:*

1. The figure for Torbay parliamentary constituency is rounded to the nearest 10. The figure for Devon local authority is rounded to the nearest hundred.

2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of Train to Gain starts and achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of Train to Gain starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Supplementary table 7 shows Train to Gain starts and achievements by parliamentary constituency, local authority and Government office region.

### Vocational Training: Preston

**Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what record his Department holds of the number of women in Preston who have visited an information and communications technology training centre in order to gain return to work skills in each year since 1997. [311142]

**Kevin Brennan:** Table 1 shows participation by females in LSC-funded learning, within the information and communications technology (ICT) sector subject area. Information is given from 2005/06 onwards, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

Information is not available on the number of learners who have visited an ICT training centre.

*Table 1: Females on courses in the information and communications technology sector subject area, Preston parliamentary constituency*

| | *Further education enrolments* | *Apprenticeship starts* | *Train to gain starts* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 6140 | [1]— | 10 |
| 2006/07 | 4770 | [1]— | 10 |
| 2007/08 | 4510 | [1]— | 10 |
| 2008/09[2] | 4240 | [1]— | 20 |

[1] Figure of less than five.

[2] Provisional.

*Source:*

Individualised learner record

*Notes:*

1. FE and train to gain figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data is collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/demand-led-funding.htm.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Figures for Preston parliamentary constituency are based on home postcode of the learner.

4. Figures for further education include further education, adult and community learning, University for Industry.

5. Figures for further education are based on aims/enrolments—an aim will be counted in every year for which a learner is participating on that course. A learner may participate on more than one aim.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Capital Investment: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding his Department has allocated in respect of Gloucestershire in each year since 1997. [312746]

**Mr. Coaker:** Schools capital funding allocated by the Department to Gloucestershire in each year since 1997 is set out in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 7.9 |
| 1998-99 | 7.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 12.9 |
| 2000-01 | 26.9 |
| 2001-02 | 26.6 |
| 2002-03 | 32.6 |
| 2003-04 | 35.4 |
| 2004-05 | 45.0 |
| 2005-06 | 34.6 |
| 2006-07 | 69.0 |
| 2007-08 | 42.7 |
| 2008-09 | 36.1 |
| 2009-10 | 53.3 |

The allocation of £69 million in 2006-07 includes £29.2 million for a One School Pathfinder for the Building Schools for the Future programme. The allocation of £52.8 million in 2009-10 includes £5.9 million brought forward from 2010-11.

Prior to 2004-05, the only capital funding allocation to Gloucestershire for children, families or youth provision other than schools was a grant of £2.3 million in 1999-2000 to develop the local Sure Start local programme up to 2005-06. The allocations from 2004-05 onwards are in the following table.

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | £ million<br>2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sure Start | 0.10 | 1.28 | 0.75 | 4.71 | 3.00 | 2.16 |
| Facilities for short breaks for disabled children | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 0.53 |
| Parental information and support | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.00 |
| Play facilities | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.53 | 0.60 |
| Integration of Children's Services | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.15 | 0.04 | 0.04 |
| New Places for 16 to 19 year-olds | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.80 | 9.40 | 0.00 |
| Youth facilities | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.25 |

## Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [314230]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and childcare with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the improvement in performance at key stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Chorley are given in the following tables:

*Key stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the Chorley constituency*

| | Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 2009[3] | Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009 |
| *Chorley* | | | |
| English[1] | 71 | 85 | 14 |
| Maths[1] | 73 | 84 | 11 |
| Science[1] | 78 | 91 | 13 |
| *England* | | | |
| English[2] | 63 | 80 | 17 |
| Maths[2] | 62 | 79 | 17 |
| Science[2] | 68 | 88 | 20 |

[1] Pupils attending schools in Chorley constituency
[2] The average for all schools in England
[3] Revised data

*GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools in the Chorley constituency*

| Percentage of pupils gaining: | 1997 | 2009[3] | Percentage point improvement 1997 to 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Chorley* | | | |
| 5+ A* - C | 53.7 | 75.3 | 21.6 |
| 5+ A* - G | 91.6 | 95.3 | 3.7 |
| *National average* | | | |
| 5+ A* - C | 45.1 | 70.0 | 24.9 |
| 5+ A* - G | 86.4 | 92.3 | 5.9 |

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Revised data.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Class Sizes

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were being educated in schools of more than *(a)* 400, *(b)* 500, *(c)* 600 and *(d)* 700 pupils in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2003. [304900]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information is shown in the following table.

*All schools: number of pupils by size of school[1] as at January each year—in England*

| | Pupils attending all schools | Pupils attending schools with >400 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >400 pupils | Pupils attending schools with >500 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >500 pupils | Pupils attending schools with >600 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >600 pupils | Pupils attending schools with >700 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >700 pupils |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1997* | | | | | | | | | |
| Maintained Nursery | 50,840 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Maintained Primary[2] | 4,429,040 | 970,770 | 21.9 | 310,750 | 7.0 | 101,000 | 2.3 | 31,930 | 0.7 |
| State-funded Secondary[2,3] | 3,056,870 | 2,960,740 | 96.9 | 2,846,730 | 93.1 | 2,661,100 | 87.1 | 2,411,380 | 78.9 |
| Maintained Special[4] | 93,020 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Non-Maintained Special | 5,230 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Pupil Referral Units | 7,530 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Independent[5] | 552,440 | 274,620 | 49.7 | 227,220 | 41.1 | 195,360 | 35.4 | 154,680 | 28.0 |
| *2003* | | | | | | | | | |
| Maintained Nursery | 40,480 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Maintained Primary[2] | 4,309,030 | 1,060,190 | 24.6 | 320,290 | 7.4 | 136,120 | 3.2 | 42,440 | 1.0 |

*All schools: number of pupils by size of school[1] as at January each year in England*

| | Pupils attending all schools | Pupils attending schools with >400 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >400 pupils | Pupils attending schools with >500 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >500 pupils | Pupils attending schools with >600 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >600 pupils | Pupils attending schools with >700 pupils | % of pupils attending schools with >700 pupils |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State-funded Secondary[2,3] | 3,328,270 | 3,269,490 | 98.2 | 3,197,030 | 96.1 | 3,081,230 | 92.6 | 2,901,790 | 87.2 |
| Maintained Special[4] | 88,930 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Non-Maintained Special | 4,950 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Pupil Referral Units | 12,010 | 500 | 4.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Independent[5] | 583,100 | 317,040 | 54.4 | 256,040 | 43.9 | 214,550 | 36.8 | 176,860 | 30.3 |

[1] Includes solely registered pupils and pupils with other providers (Pupil Referral Units only).
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[4] Includes General Hospital Schools.
[5] Includes Direct Grant nurseries.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in further education have received education maintenance allowance in each year since the allowance was introduced. [313738]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoff Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

### GCE A-Level

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 462W, on GCE A-level, what the threshold for disclosure is. [310372]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* In DCSF Statistical First Releases on Key Stage 5 and A levels, figures of two pupils fewer are suppressed. That convention is followed and applied for Key Stage 5 parliamentary questions.

### GCE A-Level: Children in Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 914-5W, on educational attainment: children in care, for what reasons his Department does not collect information on A-level examination attempts and achievements for looked after children. [305628]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* Information about the A-level achievements of looked after children has never been part of any national data collection. As part of the Government's determination to improve outcomes for looked after children, the first data collection on education outcomes for looked after children of compulsory school age was published in 2001. This collected information on the educational achievements of children looked after for 12 months or more as at 30 September at key stages 1 to 3 and for GCSE and GNVQs at key stage 4. The emphasis has been on improving the educational achievement of looked after children who are of compulsory school age. Collecting data on the achievement of looked after children of compulsory school age has been key in measuring how well local authorities support the education of the children they look after and in making sure that they prioritise the importance of promoting the educational achievement of this group of children.

In recent years, we have been working on a project looking at a new data source for the attainment of looked after children, which matches child level data on looked after children from local authorities to the National Pupil Database. This source will provide us with more detailed information on the attainment of looked after children and will also give us the opportunity to extend the coverage to other groups not covered by the previous data source.

In November the Department published analysis of this new data source as experimental statistics in the release, 'Bridging Series for Outcomes for Looked After Children: Comparison of Data from Matched Administrative Source with Current Aggregate Source':

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000894/index.shtml

The Bridging Series publication is designed to pave the way for a change in the data source for the attainment of looked after children. We will not be using the new matched data source to monitor the attainment of looked after children until 2010. These figures are published as experimental statistics and should therefore be treated with caution. They have been released to allow users to comment on the new data source and methodology before being adopted fully as official statistics.

This publication contains figures on the attainment in compulsory education only as the initial focus was to consider whether the source could be used as a replacement for the previous OC2 collection. Once we have completed consultation on this new source and adopted these figures as official statistics, we plan to explore other uses of these data, which may include attainment beyond compulsory education.

## GCSE

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or higher reckoned by *(a)* grades achieved in GCSE qualifications and *(b)* all grades achieved in GCSE qualifications and other accredited qualifications equivalent to a GCSE in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [300699]

**Mr. Coaker:** Prior to 1997 the Department included only achievements in full course GCSEs in the five or more GCSEs at grade C or higher measure.

*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades in*

| | *GCSEs only* | *GCSEs and equivalents* |
|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 34.5 | — |
| 1991 | 36.8 | — |
| 1992 | 38.3 | — |
| 1993 | 41.2 | — |
| 1994 | 43.3 | — |
| 1995 | 43.5 | — |
| 1996 | 44.5 | — |
| 1997 | 45.1 | 45.1 |
| 1998 | 46.2 | 46.3 |
| 1999 | 47.7 | 47.9 |
| 2000 | 48.8 | 49.2 |
| 2001 | 49.4 | 50.0 |
| 2002 | 50.2 | 51.6 |
| 2003 | 50.0 | 52.9 |
| 2004 | 51.2 | 53.7 |
| 2005 | 53.2 | 56.8 |
| 2006 | 53.9 | 59.0 |
| 2007 | 54.6 | 61.4 |
| 2008 | 56.7 | 65.3 |
| 2009 | 57.5 | 69.7 |

*Notes:*
1. Column headed GCSE only
Prior to 1997 is full course GCSEs
From 1997 onwards also includes GCSE short courses.
From 2004 onwards also includes vocational GCSE single and double awards.
2. Column headed GCSEs and equivalents
Includes everything in the GCSE only column—plus
From 1997 to 2003 GNVQs are counted as equivalents.
From 2004 onwards all accredited level 2 equivalents are counted as equivalents.
A full list can be found here:
http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk
3. Figures from 2005 onwards relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in all schools.
Figures prior to 2005 relate to 15yearolds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools.
*Source:*
Achievement and Attainment Table data

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of students achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE in *(a)* independent and *(b)* comprehensive schools in (i) 2003, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2007. [304905]

**Mr. Coaker:** The figures requested are given in the following table:

*Number and percentage of students who achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE in selected years*

| | *Comprehensive Schools* | | *Independent Schools* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2003 | 8,416 | 1.6 | 7,441 | 16.8 |
| 2005 | 10,576 | 2.0 | 9,163 | 19.6 |
| 2007 | 12,094 | 2.2 | 9,575 | 20.5 |

The 2003 data relate to 15 year-olds at the start of the school year.

The 2005 and 2007 data relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Leicester, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England did not meet the Government's target for GCSE examination passes in the latest period for which figures are available. [312226]

**Mr. Coaker:** The National Challenge seeks to ensure that by 2011, at least 30 per cent. of pupils in every school achieve five GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics. As listed in the achievement and attainment tables, the 2009 GCSE results show that *(a)* three schools in Leicester, *(b)* 25 schools in the East Midlands and *(c)* 247 schools in England were below this 30 per cent. benchmark. These results confirm that *(a)* one school in Leicester, *(b)* 22 schools in the East Midlands and (c) 207 schools in England have risen above 30 per cent. since 2008.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students who took GCSE examinations in 2009 failed by one mark to achieve their predicted grade in *(a)* Leicester, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England. [312227]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Languages: Teachers

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers qualified to teach Mandarin are teaching in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* special schools. [311106]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the qualifications and subjects taught of primary and special school teachers is not available.

## Primary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have received from (i) hon. Members and (ii) London boroughs on the number of primary school places in London in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009; how many (1) requests for meetings each received from and (2) meetings each had with (x) hon. Members and with (y) London boroughs on the matter; and which boroughs were involved in each case. [313452]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are no records from 2008 that the Secretary of State or other Ministers received representations on the number of primary school places in London or requests to discuss the matter, nor that meetings with hon. Members or with representatives of London boroughs to discuss this matter took place.

In 2009, there were two Westminster Hall debates which were relevant: on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 207-30WH, the hon. Member secured a debate on "Primary School Places (London)" to which the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry), then a DCSF Minister, responded. On 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 426-34WH, the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) secured a Westminster Hall debate on "School Places" to which my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) also responded. There have also been references to the increase in demand for primary places in some areas in written and oral questions during 2009.

In 2009, the Secretary of State did not have any meetings with hon. Members or London borough representatives in order to discuss primary places. Other DCSF ministers had meetings with hon. Members and officers of London boroughs on four occasions where pressure on primary places in London was a main topic of discussion and on three occasions to discuss the pressure on primary places in authorities outside London. Ministers' practice is to accept requests for meetings but, without incurring disproportionate cost, it is not possible to say with certainty that no requests from hon. Members to DCSF Ministers to discuss this matter were refused. The London boroughs represented at these discussions were Kingston upon Thames, Richmond, Sutton, and Lambeth.

During 2009, there was correspondence between DCSF ministers and hon. Members, and between DCSF officials and representatives of London boroughs and other authorities in which the pressure on primary places was among the topics covered, but a separate record has not been maintained of the items of correspondence which included mentions of the topic.

In addition, DCSF officials have on many occasions since the beginning of 2009 discussed primary place pressures and how best to address them through meetings and correspondence with officers of several London boroughs and other authorities; and also with members of representative organisations including the Local Government Association, London Councils, the Association of London Directors of Children's Services and the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

## Pupils: Bullying

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evaluation has been carried out of the effectiveness of his Department's policies to reduce levels of bullying in schools. [314536]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department is currently conducting research through Goldsmiths college into the effectiveness of all anti-bullying strategies used in schools and recommended by local authorities. This research will provide the necessary quantitative and qualitative data needed to draw robust conclusions about the efficacy of different anti-bullying strategies. The research will also evaluate the Department's pilot of innovative approaches to peer mentoring schemes. The Department will publish the research report in the autumn of 2010.

This research follows on from our previous evaluation conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) into the work of the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), one of the Department's key delivery partners in the field. PWC's report published in 2007 concluded that the ABA played a crucial role in helping schools and local authorities to access the broad range of available expertise on bullying and their programme of work was broadly aligned to the Department's stated policies and priorities.

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per pupil funding was in each local authority in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [312787]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department has placed the relevant information which shows the per pupil revenue funding figures (in real terms) for pupils aged three to 19 for all local authorities in each year since 1997-98 to 2008-09 in the Libraries; along with an explanation of how changes in the school funding system over time means that the data are not on a comparable basis across years.

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per child education spending was in Salford *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which information is available. [313324]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information is shown in the following table:

*Combined LEA and school based expenditure per pupil in Salford, 1996-97 and 2008-09*

| | *Combined LEA and school based expenditure* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *1996-97* | *2008-09* |
| England | 2,690 | 5,340 |
| Salford | 2,630 | 6,050 |

*Notes:*

1. The combined LA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA).

2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by CLG (formerly ODPM) to the section 52 form (now section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.

3. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under fives funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DCSF Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under five pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only included for 1999-2000 onwards. For 1995-96 onwards other LA maintained pupils are included in the pupil count. This includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from the form 8b submitted to the DCSF. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained mainstream school drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and are in cash terms.

## Schools: Buildings

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on school buildings in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) nationwide in each year since 2008. [313482]

**Mr. Coaker:** Schools capital funding is allocated on a local authority basis, and a large proportion is prioritised by local authorities between primary and secondary schools. Accordingly, records are not maintained centrally which distinguish between primary and secondary schools, or between constituencies. The following table shows schools capital allocations made so far to South Tyneside and the North East region for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

| | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| South Tyneside | 8.1 | 11.0 |
| North East region | 142.1 | 346.8 |

The large increase in 2009-10 results from:

(a) a Building Schools for the Future project in Hartlepool worth nearly £110 million;

(b) for all authorities, the first year of the Primary Capital Programme, worth £55 million to the region in the first year of allocation; and

(c) a number of projects brought forward as part of the Government's fiscal stimulus.

Planned school capital allocations for England for the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 amount to £21.9 billion, split £6.7 billion for 2008-09, £7.0 billion 2009-10, and £8.2 billion for 2010-11. Local authorities may add to this figure by using revenue reserves for capital purposes.

### Schools: Databases

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* his Department of collecting and *(b)* schools of collecting and providing data collected centrally in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [304907]

**Mr. Coaker:** In the 2009-10 financial year, the estimated cost of collecting data from schools and performing primary analysis leading up to publication of Statistical First Releases is £1,393,200. This figure comprises the administration and programme costs for the Department's central division responsible for data collections, Data Services Group.

Office for National Statistics advise us that the compliance cost figures for the 2008-09 financial year will not be available until the first quarter of 2010. Hence, the total cost in the 2007-08 financial year to local authorities and schools of collecting and providing those data collected centrally is £6,135,000. This includes both regular and ad-hoc collections and collections about children's services as well as education. We cannot provide a cost for schools separately. This figure was published in the Office for National Statistics 2007-08 Annual Report on Government Statistical Surveys, see URL, page 13, table A7.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_other/GSS-Report1.pdf

### Schools: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 159W, on schools: finance, how many pupils in Gloucestershire are defined as *(a)* in urban schools and *(b)* in rural schools. [312753]

**Mr. Coaker:** The total number of pupils in rural schools is 26,317 and the total number of pupils in urban schools is 65,127. The Department has placed the relevant information which shows the breakdown of the numbers of pupils in urban and rural schools in Gloucestershire local authority in January 2009 in the Libraries. Schools have been categorised into urban and rural using the Rural and Urban Classification 2004.

### Schools: Greenwich

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average real terms change in expenditure per pupil has been in Greenwich Education Authority *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* sixth forms in each of the last five years. [314394]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information on the average real terms increase in expenditure per pupil in primary and secondary schools in Greenwich education authority is shown in the following table.

*School based expenditure per pupil in Greenwich local authority from 2003-04 to 2008-09*

| | *Primary education* | | *Secondary education* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Greenwich* | *England* | *Greenwich* |
| 2003-04 | 3,130 | 3,730 | 4,030 | 5,130 |
| 2004-05 | 3,220 | 3,900 | 4,200 | 5,340 |
| 2005-06 | 3,420 | 4,100 | 4,420 | 5,680 |
| 2006-07 | 3,540 | 4,380 | 4,560 | 5,910 |
| 2007-08 | 3,670 | 4,550 | 4,730 | 6,180 |
| 2008-09 | 3,780 | 4,880 | 4,890 | 6,560 |
| Real terms increase since 2003-04 | 650 | 1,150 | 860 | 1,430 |
| Average real terms increase per year since 2003-04 | 130 | 230 | 170 | 290 |

*Notes:*

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
3. Cash figures are adjusted to 2008-09 levels using January 2010 GDP deflators.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Real terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 26 January 2010.

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for funding schools sixth forms and FE and sixth form colleges. I have asked the LSC's chief executive, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested for sixth forms and a copy will be placed in the Libraries.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the capital allocation has been in respect of Greenwich Education Authority *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* sixth form centres in each financial year since 1987-88. [314395]

**Mr. Coaker:** Most school capital allocations are prioritised at local authority level, including between primary and secondary schools. Accordingly, no central records are maintained which distinguish between primary and secondary school allocations. Local authority school capital allocation records have been maintained centrally since 1996-97, and school allocations made to Greenwich since this year are set out in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 1.7 |
| 1997-98 | 4.4 |
| 1998-99 | 5.5 |
| 1999-2000 | 4.5 |
| 2000-01 | 7.3 |
| 2001-02 | 8.4 |
| 2002-03 | 12.1 |
| 2003-04 | 46.5 |
| 2004-05 | 18.6 |
| 2005-06 | 72.8 |
| 2006-07 | 17.0 |
| 2007-08 | 16.8 |
| 2008-09 | 200.5 |
| 2009-10 | 103.1 |
| 2010-11 | 20.0 |

The high allocation figures in 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09 include Building Schools for the Future allocations of £57.2 million, £183.5 million and £76.5 million respectively.

The Learning and Skills Council allocated capital funding under the 16-19 capital rationalisation fund to Greenwich Education Authority for the establishment of a sixth form centre at Shooters Hill. The amounts allocated were:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,933,700 |
| 2003-04 | 2,417,125 |
| 2004-05 | 2,417,125 |

### Schools: Inspections

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been placed in a category by Ofsted arising from safeguarding issues *(a)* in the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [306285]

**Mr. Coaker:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 January 2010:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Prior to September 2005, section 10 inspections did not contain a discrete judgement on safeguarding and so it is not possible to respond to the question for the period prior to September 2005.

During the period September 2005 to August 2009 all section 5 inspections made a judgement about the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures. The judgement was either 'yes' or 'no'. Where the safeguarding procedures were judged not to be sufficiently effective, some schools, were placed into a category of concern. However, all of these schools were found to have other, significant, inadequate aspects to their provision and this will have contributed to their inadequate overall effectiveness judgement. It is important to note that the reasons for a school being placed in a category of concern are often complex and may be a result of inadequacies in a number of areas of the school. Safeguarding may be one factor among many which together result in a school being placed in a category of concern.

Since the revisions to the new school inspection framework introduced in September, 2009, the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures has become a limiting judgement. It is likely therefore that we will be able to give you the specific figures for inspections undertaken after that time, but not until later in the year.

For the period from September 2009 to December 2009, information about maintained school inspection outcomes cannot be published as official statistics on our website until 17th March 2010.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria Ofsted uses in appointing school inspectors; and if he will make a statement. [311006]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 January 2010:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

There are two types of inspectors for schools: Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), who work directly for Ofsted; and additional inspectors (AIs), who are employed by Ofsted's inspection service providers (ISPs).

All inspectors are required to be fit, proper, competent and effective for undertaking their inspection duties. They must have credibility and up-to-date professional knowledge and will normally have gained a degree or an equivalent qualification. They are expected to have appropriate experience, usually drawn from a number of years as a senior manager in an education setting or service such as a headteacher or a local authority adviser. In addition, they need to have competence in the use of IT and a clear enhanced criminal records bureau (CRB) check that is refreshed every three years. Prior to appointment, all inspectors must provide employers' references and participate in a medical assessment to ensure they are fit for the work they are to undertake.

Inspectors must be able to: gather, analyse and interpret relevant evidence; make objective, fair and evidence-based judgements; communicate clearly both orally and in writing; display high levels of professional conduct; lead others and manage their work effectively to achieve high-quality outcomes.

All inspectors must uphold the highest professional standards and follow the code of conduct for inspectors at all times.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

### Schools: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital expenditure was per (i) primary and (ii) secondary pupil in schools in Leeds local education authority areas (A) in cash terms and (B) at current prices in each year since 1992-93. [306595]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information on the average revenue expenditure per primary and secondary pupil in schools in Leeds local education authority areas are shown in the table.

Capital allocations are made at local authority and school level, and are prioritised by local authorities between schools in accordance with local asset management plans. Accordingly, the Department does not maintain central records of the average primary and secondary school capital spend. Capital allocations to Leeds (a) in cash terms and (b) current prices in each year since the first year in which records are available, are set out in the table:

| | £ million | |
|---|---|---|
| | Cash | Current |
| 1996-97 | 8.7 | 12.1 |
| 1997-98 | 9.2 | 12.5 |
| 1998-99 | 10.4 | 13.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 17.3 | 22.2 |
| 2000-01 | 74.1 | 92.7 |
| 2001-02 | 26.0 | 31.8 |
| 2002-03 | 60.2 | 72.9 |
| 2003-04 | 35.1 | 41.3 |
| 2004-05 | 72.2 | 82.6 |
| 2005-06 | 310.4 | 344.6 |
| 2006-07 | 171.7 | 184.6 |
| 2007-08 | 77.4 | 79.7 |
| 2008-09 | 32.6 | 32.1 |
| 2009-10 | 51.5 | 51.5 |

*Notes:*

1. Index used: RPI 1987=100 all items, mid point in year
2. The allocations of £310.4 million and £171.7 million in 2005-06 and 2006-07 include £143.5 million and £42.2 million respectively for a Building Schools for the Future project.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on new school buildings in Leeds North East constituency since 1997. [314655]

**Mr. Coaker:** School capital allocations are allocated at local authority level. Accordingly, no central records are maintained which distinguish between parliamentary constituencies. Similarly as the local authority determines the proportion of resources spent on new school buildings or refurbishment, records are not kept centrally on new school buildings since 1997. School capital allocations to Leeds since 1997 are set out in the following table. Actual expenditure in any financial year may differ due to (a) procurement timing differences (b) other resources that may be available locally (c) priorities set locally.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 9.2 |
| 1998-99 | 10.4 |
| 1999-2000 | 17.3 |
| 2000-01 | 74.1 |
| 2001-02 | 26.0 |
| 2002-03 | 60.2 |
| 2003-04 | 35.1 |
| 2004-05 | 72.2 |
| 2005-06 | 310.4 |
| 2006-07 | 171.7 |
| 2007-08 | 77.4 |
| 2008-09 | 32.6 |
| 2009-10 | 51.5 |
| 2010-11 | 29.9 |

The high allocation figures during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 include Building Schools for the Future allocations of £352.5 million. The funding spike of £51.5 million in 2009-10 includes a fiscal stimulus advance of £ 5.7 million, brought forward from 2010-11.

## Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313582]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department does not anticipate any costs arising from the recent severe weather.

There is no duty upon schools or local authorities to report to the Department any costs that they may incur.

## Social Services: Doncaster

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessors and *(c)* Ministers in his Department and its predecessors have visited Doncaster since 1 January 2004. [314910]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The following Ministers (past and present) of the Department of Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor Departments have made visits to the Doncaster area since 1 January 2004.

| *Name* | *Date(s) of visit* |
|---|---|
| Ruth Kelly | 5 May 2004 and 9 November 2004 |
| Stephen Twigg | 22 September 2004 |
| Lord Filkin | 28 January 2005 |
| Lord Adonis | 15 July 2005 and 25 April 2007 |
| Ed Balls | 13 July 2007 and 12 September 2008 |
| Jim Knight | 4 June 2008 |

## Teachers: Salford

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants there were in Salford schools (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [313325]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is published in tables 19 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

## Teachers: Training

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department spent on teacher training for graduates with a degree result lower than second class since 1997; [312914]

(2) what the lowest degree score required for graduates is to receive tax-payer funded teacher training for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teaching; [312915]

(3) how many graduates with a degree classed lower than second class have received government funding for teacher training since 1997. [312916]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of postgraduate teacher trainees in their first year of initial teacher training courses with a degree classification lower than second class is given in the table.

*Postgraduate trainees in their first year of ITT courses by classification of their first degree: Years: 1998/99 to 2007/08—Coverage: England*

| | *Number of first year trainees* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2:2 and above* | *Third and Pass* | *Unclassified* | *Total* |
| 1998/99 | 14,680 | 1,330 | 670 | 16,680 |
| 1999/2000 | 14,850 | 1,250 | 650 | 16,740 |
| 2000/01 | 16,180 | 1,400 | 620 | 18,200 |
| 2001/02 | 19,600 | 1,700 | 1,230 | 22,540 |
| 2002/03 | 22,120 | 2,030 | 660 | 24,810 |
| 2003/04 | 25,550 | 2,300 | 610 | 28,450 |
| 2004/05 | 25,720 | 2,210 | 610 | 28,550 |
| 2005/06 | 25,820 | 2,070 | 610 | 28,490 |
| 2006/07 | 25,300 | 1,790 | 460 | 27,550 |
| 2007/08 | 24,360 | 1,710 | 630 | 26,700 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures up to and including 2000/01 are mainstream only. This includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and Open University but excludes employment based routes.
2. Figures for 2001/02 and later include trainees on both mainstream and employment based routes to initial teacher training.
3. Includes only those trainees whose qualification on entry was a UK degree.
4. Those training through the Fast Track programme (which ran between 2001/02 and 2005/06) are included.
5. Unclassified includes those cases for whom degree classification was not known or was undefined.
6. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

TDA's Performance Profiles

Initial teacher training funding is based on allocated places split between the routes into teaching and subject specialism. Information on the amount of direct Government funding relating to trainees by degree class is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Most teacher trainees will receive some element of Government funding for their training either through their initial teacher training place being funded by the Training and Development Agency for Schools or being in receipt of a financial incentive or other support.

Regulation does not require a specific degree classification prior to acceptance for graduate initial teacher training (ITT). Individual training providers have the discretion to make a judgment about whether an individual's qualification demonstrates the breadth and type of academic engagement that would be expected from first degree study. Training providers will make a judgement of whether an applicant has the intellectual and academic capabilities needed to meet the required qualified teacher status (QTS) standards, including whether the applicant will be able to demonstrate evidence of meeting the QTS standards relating to subject and curriculum knowledge. It is possible for an oversubscribed training provider to impose additional requirements on applicants, including requiring a specific minimum degree classification.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether universities which offer courses in the Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (numeracy) programme were expected as a condition of their funding to ensure that students they enrolled would have the opportunity of a teaching placement; and if he will make a statement. [314087]

**Kevin Brennan:** Any university wishing to offer the Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) qualification must seek endorsement of their course by Standards Verification UK (SVUK)—the body responsible for the verification of Further Education (FE) Initial Teacher Training qualifications.

One of the core requirements for the DTLLS course is that there must be a minimum of 150 hours of teaching practice. No one can complete their DTLLS qualification without undergoing appropriate and satisfactory teaching practice.

Placements for those undertaking DTLLS are negotiated on an ongoing basis by the university delivering the course with the FE and other education providers in their surrounding areas.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of universities in providing Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) teaching placements for students on their DTLLS courses; and if he will make a statement. [314088]

**Kevin Brennan:** A core requirement for a Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) course, without which endorsement by Standards Verification UK (SVUK), the body responsible for the verification of Further Education (FE) Initial Teacher Training (ITT) qualifications, would not be granted, is that there must be provision for a minimum of 150 hours of teaching practice.

The quality of FE ITT provision is inspected regularly by Ofsted. In their most recent report on FE ITT, published in February 2009, Ofsted say they

> "received positive comments from inspectors about course design and the way they support links between the taught elements and the workplace experience of trainers".

## Training and Development Agency for Schools: Finance

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of the finance function of the Training and Development Agency for Schools referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312683]

**Mr. Coaker:** The benchmarking results were based on budgets which contain fundamentally different components. The TDA finance function has a much wider remit than the traditional finance function in many other comparable organisations.

Nevertheless, the TDA is taking the opportunity of its relocation to Manchester to review the way it provides back office services, including its finance function, and efficiencies will result.

### Truancy

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of trends in truancy rates in *(a)* Lewes constituency, *(b)* East Sussex, *(c)* the South East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [305616]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The available information is shown in the table.

To provide further constituency level data and information prior to 2003 would incur disproportionate cost.

*Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] — percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 2003/04 to 2007/08[4, 5]*

| | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Lewes constituency* | *East Sussex* | *South East* | *England* |
| 2003/04 | n/a | 0.95 | 0.65 | 0.76 |
| 2004/05 | n/a | 1.04 | 0.75 | 0.81 |
| 2005/06 | n/a | 1.09 | 0.84 | 0.92 |
| 2006/07 | n/a | 1.12 | 0.90 | 1.00 |
| 2007/08 | 1.16 | 1.17 | 0.95 | 1.01 |

n/a = Not readily available. To provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Figures in italics have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.

[5] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

*Source:*

Absence in Schools Survey and School Census[4]

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

### Truancy: Leeds

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the unauthorised absence rate was for pupils in Leeds North West constituency in each year since 1997. [309385]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information for selected years is shown in the table.

To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

*Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence 1996-97-2007-08[4]: Leeds North West constituency*

| | *Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[5]* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 0.87 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.70 |
| 2003-04 | 0.72 |
| 2007-08 | 1.52 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Figures prior to 2007-08 have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.

[5] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

*Source:*

Absence in Schools Survey and School Census[4]

### Truancy: Prosecutions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents appeared in court in relation to their children's unauthorised absence from school in *(a)* England and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [308463]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information from the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database on the number of parents proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to failing to secure their child's regular school attendance in the Sussex police force area and England, for the years 2001 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table. Prior to 2001 these offences cannot be separately identified.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to "failing to attend school" in Sussex police force area (pfa), and England, 2001-07[1, 2]*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sussex (pfa) | 13 | 6 | 17 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 13 |
| England | 1,961 | 3,163 | 3,849 | 4,442 | 4,648 | 5,999 | 7,745 |

[1] Includes the following:

(i) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)).

(ii) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(1)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence, for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice. [Ref: IOS 593-09]

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

These data are a further breakdown of that published in the Criminal Statistics, Supplementary Volumes for England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2007.

Our commitment as set out in the Children's Plan is to reduce the level of persistent absence so that by 2011 no local authority will have more than five per cent of its secondary pupils as persistent absentees. Although the number of prosecutions in Sussex was the same in 2007 as in 2001, there has been an increase of 5,784 prosecutions in England over the same period, which is nearly four times as many than in 2001. This could be attributed to local authorities making more use of their powers to improve attendance in school. Recent years have seen increased use of parental responsibility measures such as parenting orders and parenting contracts as well as prosecutions.

## Youth Justice

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many first-time *(a)* male and *(b)* female entrants into the youth justice system aged (i) 10, (ii) 11, (iii) 12, (iv) 13, (v) 14, (vi) 15, (vii) 16 and (viii) 17 years old there were in each of the last three years. [313121]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The number of young people, broken down by gender and single year of age, receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction processed by English or Welsh police forces can be found in the following tables:

*Number of young people aged 10 to 17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction, processed by English or Welsh police forces, (and percentage of all year total), by gender and financial year*

| | *Male* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
| *Age (at time of offence)* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 10 | 1,726 | 1.6 | 1,579 | 1.6 | 1,117 | 1.4 |
| 11 | 3,595 | 3.3 | 3,083 | 3.1 | 2,300 | 2.9 |
| 12 | 6,325 | 5.7 | 5,359 | 5.3 | 3,976 | 5 |
| 13 | 9,174 | 8.3 | 7,854 | 7.8 | 5,722 | 7.2 |
| 14 | 12,477 | 11.3 | 10,771 | 10.7 | 8,223 | 10.4 |
| 15 | 15,037 | 13.6 | 13,386 | 13.4 | 10,220 | 12.9 |
| 16 | 14,301 | 13 | 13,219 | 13.2 | 10,963 | 13.8 |
| 17 | 12,671 | 11.5 | 12,489 | 12.5 | 11,024 | 13.9 |
| Total | 75,306 | 68.4 | 67,740 | 67.6 | 53,545 | 67.6 |

| | *Female* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
| *Age (at time of offence)* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 10 | 317 | 0.3 | 241 | 0.2 | 175 | 0.2 |
| 11 | 965 | 0.9 | 869 | 0.9 | 665 | 0.8 |
| 12 | 2,671 | 2.4 | 2,552 | 2.5 | 1,825 | 2.3 |
| 13 | 5,244 | 4.8 | 4,836 | 4.8 | 3,804 | 4.8 |
| 14 | 7,745 | 7 | 6,917 | 6.9 | 5,418 | 6.8 |
| 15 | 7,770 | 7 | 7,270 | 7.3 | 5,585 | 7 |
| 16 | 5,552 | 5 | 5,306 | 5.3 | 4,236 | 5.3 |
| 17 | 4,147 | 3.8 | 3,937 | 3.9 | 3,483 | 4.4 |
| Total | 34,411 | 31.2 | 31,928 | 31.9 | 25,191 | 31.8 |

| | *Total* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | | *2008-09* | |
| *Age (at time of offence)* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 10 | 2,064 | 1.9 | 1,834 | 1.8 | 1,309 | 1.7 |
| 11 | 4,578 | 4.2 | 3,983 | 4 | 2,989 | 3.8 |
| 12 | 9,044 | 8.2 | 7,963 | 7.9 | 5,854 | 7.4 |
| 13 | 14,482 | 13.1 | 12,759 | 12.7 | 9,585 | 12.1 |
| 14 | 20,302 | 18.4 | 17,769 | 17.7 | 13,743 | 17.3 |
| 15 | 22,911 | 20.8 | 20,779 | 20.7 | 15,909 | 20.1 |
| 16 | 20,033 | 18.2 | 18,628 | 18.6 | 15,287 | 19.3 |
| 17 | 16,872 | 15.3 | 16,495 | 16.5 | 14,584 | 18.4 |
| Total | 110,286 | 100 | 100,210 | 100 | 79,260 | 100 |

Note that the sum of male and female offenders in the above table may not match the total exactly owing to gender not being recorded on a small number of cases. An equivalent breakdown by age for offenders living in England only is not available owing to the method used to allocate records where insufficient address data are available.

## Youth Custody: Education

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 27W, on youth custody, how many hours on average a young person under the age of 18 years spent per day in education, training and personal development in each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offenders institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [314583]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Youth Justice Board reports the number of hours per week that young people spend undertaking education, training and personal development activities across the secure estate. This is a broad category that includes education provision delivered by learning providers commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council, as well as interventions, group work sessions, vocational training, and physical education classes delivered directly by the Prison Service or institution.

The YJB have introduced a new set of data items to allow them to monitor the secure estate. Data based on a new and more robust set of indicators are presented here for STCs and SCHs for September 2009. Data using the previous indicator are presented for YOIs. This information is presented in the following tables.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) reports that the average number of hours of OLASS funded learning and skills provision (not including personal development activity) delivered per learner per week in the public sector YOIs in the academic year 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 was 15.89 hours.

Data are not broken down to show the number of hours spent on education, training and personal development by young people held on remand but the information from the YJB and the LSC includes young people held on remand.

The data supplied by the Youth Justice Board are drawn from administrative computer systems. As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

*September 2009*

| | *Average number of hours* |
|---|---|
| Average hours of education, training and personal development activity per week for young people at Public youth offenders institutes (YOIs) | 25.6 |
| Average hours of education, training and personal development activity per week for young people at Private youth offenders institutes (YOIs) | 21.8 |
| Average hours of education received per young person per week at SCHs | 23.5 |
| Average hours of education received per young person per week at STCs | 25.8 |

## CABINET OFFICE

### Census

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 236W, on the Census, what the latest estimated cost is of developing the address register being created for the 2011 Census; what use will be made of the register after the 2011 Census; and whether not-for-profit groups will have access to the register. [312368]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:*

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimated cost is of developing the address register being created for the 2011 Census; what use will be made of the register after the 2011 Census; and whether not-for-profit groups will have access to the register. I am replying in his absence. (312368)

The total cost of developing the address register up to and through the Census collection period (mid 2011) is now estimated at £10M. This is a reduction from earlier estimates of £12M as the result of a better focused and more efficient field check. These costs are considered necessary and good value for the Census because no single national product provides a suitable address list for Census. These costs include some licensing and operational costs which would have been incurred even if a single national source had existed.

The address register being developed is intended and licensed only for use in the 2011 Census. ONS will not destroy the register after Census but licensing and legal issues around ownership of the source address data mean that we are not able to make the address register available for use by other government departments or others. Accordingly, not-for-profit groups, in common with all other parties, will not have access to the register. However, new addresses found through the ONS address check in mid 2010 will be made available to all of the address source suppliers.

There are currently no plans for further use of the register to support future censuses or other statistical work but options for such work are being considered. If a case can be made for further use of the register then changes and extensions to existing licensing agreements would be required.

We would like to see the address register (excluding those addresses found during the census field operation, which are deemed confidential under the 1920 Census Act) built upon for further and wider use. Maintenance of the list beyond the 2011 Census, however, falls outside the resources and the remit of the current project, and of ONS as a whole. Steps are being taken, however, to ensure that processes are repeatable and ONS would support the wider use of the register if this can be managed.

### Census: Training

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to paragraph 10.25 of the Census 2001 General report for England and Wales, whether appropriately trained specialist field staff will be employed in the 2011 Census. [314843]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking with reference to paragraph 10.25 of the 2001 Census General report for England and Wales, whether appropriately trained specialist field staff will be employed in the 2011 Census. (314843)

As in previous censuses there is requirement under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act Code of Practice for Interviews under Caution to be conducted with persons who refuse to comply with their statutory obligation to complete a census return. Such interviews have traditionally been carried out by enumeration field staff but evidence from the evaluation of the 2001 Census showed that it would be more effective to have separate field staff to perform the enforcement procedures.

For the 2011 Census, staff who are experienced or specially trained in undertaking such interviews will follow up cases where there has been a clear and persistent refusal to make a census return. In this way evidence may be gathered that will be sufficiently robust to satisfy the courts whenever prosecution action is taken. The Treasury Select Committee, in its report on the 2001 Census, was critical of the low number of cases referred for prosecution.

Prosecution will, however, only be a last resort at the end of a long process of offering opportunity, encouragement and assistance for members of the public to complete questionnaires.

### Charities: Educational Institutions

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many educational institutions have been investigated by the Charity Commission in each of the last five years; and what the reason was for each investigation. [314760]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 1 February 2010:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (314760) on the number of educational institutions investigated by the Charity Commission in each of the last five years, and the reasons for these investigations.

We cannot readily identify those charities which are educational institutions, as the way in which we record our information about investigatory work does not identify types of institutions, only their charitable purposes. As you will appreciate, these are widely varied given the diversity of the charitable sector.

Charities which list education as part of their purposes make up approximately half the total number of charities on the Register. They include schools, universities and colleges, through to think tanks and educational research institutions as well as community organisations and those that provide adult learning classes.

We have analysed those charities which were subject to a Statutory Inquiry (investigations opened under Section 8 of the 1993 Charities Act, which deal with cases of significant risk and serious regulatory concern) closed during the years 2005 to the present. The numbers of Statutory Inquiries into charities with educational purposes completed over the past five years were as follows:

| | *Inquiries into charities with educational purposes* | *Total inquiries* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 40 | 102 |
| 2006-07 | 20 | 39 |
| 2007-08 | 19 | 42 |
| 2008-9 | 8 | 23 |
| 2009-10 | 8 | 10 |

As part of the changes we made in 2006 following a strategic review of the Commission's work, we moved away from the previous practice of treating all investigations as statutory inquiries. Instead, we reserved the opening of statutory inquiries to only those cases of the most serious regulatory concern and that is why the total number of formal inquiries has reduced significantly since 2006.

In the time available I have not been able to analyse the detail behind all of the inquiries involving charities with educational purposes which we have conducted in the past five years. However, looking at the past two years in greater detail, I can tell you that the 16 inquiries falling into this category related to the following charities with educational purposes:

| *Year* | *Name of Charity* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | The Smith Institute (registered charity No. 1062967) |
| 2008-09 | Greater Life Foundation and Greater Life Trust Foundation (registered charity numbers 1076688 and 1106280) |
| 2008-09 | Manacare Foundation Ltd (registered charity number 1108701) |
| 2008-09 | Al Ikhlas Foundation (registered charity number 1047844) |
| 2008-09 | Footballers' Further Education and Vocational Training Society (registered charity number 277501 |
| 2008-09 | Shiloh Pentecostal Fellowship Trust (registered charity number 507798) |
| 2008-09 | Palestinians Relief and Development Fund (Interpal) (registered charity number 1040094) |
| 2008-09 | Mama East African Women's Group (registered charity number 1080481) |
| 2009-10 | Afro Caribbean Millennium Centre (registered charity number 519691)" |
| 2009-10 | St Peter's Independent School (registered charity number 281736) |
| 2009-10 | Catz Club (registered charity number 1112772) |
| 2009-10 | Humanitarian Coalition Aid Foundation (former registered charity number 1095610) |
| 2009-10 | The Smiles Foundation (registered charity number 1087961) |
| 2009-10 | Tariqa Burhaniya D'Suqiyya Shazuliyya (TBDS) (registered charity number 1041647) |
| 2009-10 | The Trust of St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing (registered charity number 242715) This includes the findings of two Statutory Inquires. |

Many of these 16 charities may not meet the definition of educational institutions that you had in mind, which I suspect may include only schools, colleges, universities and other centres of learning. I would be happy to undertake further analysis of this category of organisation should you wish me to do so.

The other type of investigation we conduct is non-statutory, which we call a Regulatory Compliance Case. In these cases the risk is usually more limited and able to be resolved without the need to intervene using our statutory powers.

The causes for concern involved in our investigations into charities are wide and varied. However, the concerns we most commonly examine include alleged financial mismanagement of the charity; trusteeship issues such as the suitability of trustees; management controls; dominant trustees, or their ineligibility to act; conflicts of interest; and/or unauthorised trustee benefits; alleged misappropriation of charity funds; or issues involving fundraising irregularities.

Broader analysis of the wider issues of concern arising from our investigations can be found in our annual report on the work of our Compliance function, 'Charities Back on Track'. I will arrange for copes of this report for 2007-8 and 2008-9 to be placed in the Library of the House. In addition our Statutory Inquiry reports for the past six months and a number of Regulatory Case reports are available on the Charity Commission website.

You may be aware that in July 2009 we published public benefit assessments of five charitable fee-charging schools. These were not investigations; they were part of our wider programme to raise awareness of the operation of the public benefit requirement, in line with our statutory objective in this area. They involved gathering information, compiling reports for each individual charity and publishing our emerging findings from the work as a whole in order to provide further guidance for charities about this matter.

I hope this is a helpful response to your question.

## Civil Servants: Leave

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many days leave a civil servant had on average in 2008-09; and how many of these were *(a)* annual leave, *(b)* bank holidays and *(c)* privilege days. [315205]

**Angela E. Smith:** This information is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office. Departments and agencies have authority to determine the terms and conditions relating to hours of work/annual leave of their own staff, subject to the conditions set out in chapter 9 of the Civil Service Management Code.

## Civil Servants: Manpower

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether staff in *(a)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency are and *(b)* the Assets Recovery Agency were included in civil service headcounts. [312178]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:*

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning whether staff in *(a)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency are and *(b)* the Assets Recovery Agency were included in civil service headcounts. I am replying in his absence. (312178)

Staff in the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) are not included as part of Civil Service headcounts.

Staff in the Assets Recovery Agency were included in Civil Service headcounts up to April 2008.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in respect of which public bodies staff were included in civil service headcounts in 1996. [312179]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:*

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning which public bodies' staff were included in civil service headcounts in 1996. I am replying in his absence. (312179)

A list of public bodies included in Civil Service headcounts in 1996 is attached at Annex A.

*Annex A*

*Public bodies included in Civil Service headcounts in 1996*

ADAS
Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Army Base Repair Organisation
Army Base Storage and Distribution Agency
Army Individual Training Organisation
Army Technical Support
Building Research Establishment
Cabinet Office (including Office of Public Service)
Cadw—Welsh Historic Monuments
CCTA
Central Science Laboratory
Central Statistical Office
Central Veterinary Laboratory
Charity Commission
Chessington Computer Centre
Civil Service College
Coastguard Agency
Companies House
Court Service
Crown Estate Office
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal
Crown Prosecution Service
Customs and Excise
Defence Accounts Agency
Defence Analytical Services Agency
Defence Animal Centre
Defence Bills Agency
Defence Clothing and Textiles
Defence Dental Agency
Defence Evaluation and Research Agency
Defence Postal and Courier Services
Defence Transport and Movement Executive
Defence, Ministry of
Diplomatic Service
Disposals Sales Agency
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Driving Standards Agency
Duke of York's Royal Military School
Education and Employment, Department for
Education, Department for
Employment Service Agency
Employment, Department of
Environment (including Property Holdings)
Export Credit Guarantee Department
Fire Service College
Flag Officer Naval Training/Reserve
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Forensic Science Service
Friendly Societies, Registry of
General Register Office—Scotland
Government Actuary
Government Property Lawyers
Health and Safety Commission/Executive
Health, Department of
Highways Agency
Historic Royal Palaces Agency
Historic Scotland
HM Prison Service
HM Stationery Office
Home Office
Hydrographic Office
Information, Central Office of
Inland Revenue
Insolvency Service
Intervention Board
Laboratory of the Government Chemist
Land Registry
Legal Secretariat
Logistic Information Systems Agency
Lord Advocate's Department
Lord Chancellor's Department
Maintenance Group
Marine Safety Agency
Meat Hygiene Service
Medical Devices Agency
Medical Supplies Agency
Medicines Control Agency
Meteorological Office
Military Survey
Ministry of Defence Police
National Engineering Laboratory
National Heritage, Department of
National Investment and Loans Office
National Physical Laboratory
National Savings, Department for
National Statistics, Office for
National Weights and Measures Laboratory
Natural Resources Institute
Naval Aircraft Repair Organisation
Naval Recruitment and Training Agency
NHS Estates
NHS Pensions Agency
Northern Ireland Office
Occupational Health and Safety Agency
Office for Standards in Education
Office of Electricity Regulation
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Gas Supply
Office of Passenger Rail Franchising
Office of Telecommunications
Office of the National Lottery
Office of the Rail Regulator
Office of Water Services
Ordnance Survey
Overseas Development Administration
Patent Office
Pay and Personnel Agency
Paymaster
Pesticides Safety Directorate

Planning inspectorate
Population Censuses and Surveys, Office of
Privy Council Office
Property Advisers to the Civil Estate
PSA Services
Public Record Office
Public Trust Office
QEII Conference Centre
Queen Victoria School
Radiocommunications Agency
RAF Maintenance Group Defence Agency
RAF Signals Engineering Establishment
RAF Training Group Defence Agency
Recruitment and Assessment Services
Registers of Scotland
Royal Mint
Royal Parks Agency
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency
Scottish Courts Service
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency
Scottish Office
Scottish Office Pensions Agency
Scottish Prison Service
Scottish Record Office
Security and Intelligence Services
Security Facilities Executive
Serious Fraud Office
Service Childrens Education
Service Childrens Schools North West Europe
Social Security Benefits Agency
Social Security Child Support Agency
Social Security Contributions Agency
Social Security I.T. Services Agency
Social Security Resettlement Agency
Social Security War Pensions Agency
Social Security, Department of
Student Awards Agency for Scotland
Teachers Pension Agency
The Buying Agency
Trade and Industry, Department of
Transport Research Laboratory
Transport, Department of
Treasury
Treasury Solicitor
UK Passport Agency
Valuation Office
Vehicle Certification Agency
Vehicle Inspectorate
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Welsh Office (incl OHMCIS)
Wilton Park

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether staff of Ofcom *(a)* are included and *(b)* were included in 1996 in civil service headcount figures. [312181]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:*

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning whether staff of Ofcom (a) are included and (b) were included in 1996 in Civil Service headcount figures. I am replying in his absence. (312181)

Ofcom was established on 29 December 2003 and is classed as a public corporation. Staff of Ofcom have never been included as part of Civil Service headcount estimates.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315067]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office and its agencies aim to pay all undisputed invoices within the terms of the contract, usually 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice. The Cabinet Office and its agencies are committed to the Prompt Payment Code and aim to pay all correctly rendered invoices within a 10 day payment target. The Department's performance against the 10-day target since November 2008 is shown in the table.

| | *Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days* |
|---|---|
| November 2008 | 51 |
| December 2008 | 54 |
| January 2009 | 56 |
| February 2009 | 57 |
| March 2009 | 70 |
| April 2009 | 94 |
| May 2009 | 95 |
| June 2009 | 97 |
| July 2009 | 89 |
| August 2009 | 96 |
| September 2009 | 92 |
| October 2009 | 96 |
| November 2009 | 90 |
| December 2009 | 94 |

### Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties her Department owns; and what recent estimate she has made of the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313791]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office annual report and accounts contain details of the Cabinet Office estate including its value.

### Foreign Investment in UK

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value of foreign *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect investment in the UK expressed in (a) sterling, (b) US dollars and (c) euros was in each of the last five years. [313251]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 29 January 2009:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the monetary value of foreign (a) direct and (b) indirect investment in the UK expressed in (a) sterling, (b) US dollars and (c) euro was in each of the last five years (313251).

The table attached provides the sterling, US dollars and euro monetary value of (a) foreign direct investment in the UK and (b) all other investment in the UK. Data for all other investment is presented as an alternative as indirect investment is not included in the international definitions of balance of payments statistics. All other investment is additionally broken down into its two constituent sub-categories of portfolio investment and other investment.

The figures provided record the financial flows into the UK over the last five years and are published in the financial account of the UK's Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin.

*Table 1. Investment in the UK*

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *in £ million* | | | | | |
| Direct investment | 31.208 | 97,845 | 84,889 | 98.150 | 49,767 |
| All other investment | 523,965 | 618.499 | 525.195 | 929.203 | -648.781 |
| of which Portfolio investment | 97.344 | 129,049 | 153,920 | 203.273 | 185,824 |
| and Other investment | 426,621 | 489,450 | 371.275 | 725,930 | -834,605 |
| *in $ million* | | | | | |
| Direct investment | 57,364 | 177,430 | 154,190 | 197,747 | 93,641 |
| All other investment | 960,429 | 1.138,669 | 952,024 | 1,846.086 | -1,052,146 |
| of which Portfolio investment | 178,364 | 236,934 | 285,652 | 406,718 | 363,547 |
| and Other investment | 782,066 | 901,736 | 666,372 | 1,439,368 | -1,415,693 |
| *in euro/million* | | | | | |
| Direct investment | 45,795 | 142,997 | 124,116 | 141,964 | 63,639 |
| All other investment | 772,649 | 902,216 | 770,174 | 1,367,451 | -765,305 |
| of which Portfolio investment | 143,636 | 188,239 | 226,232 | 297,048 | 237,124 |
| and Other investment | 629,013 | 713,976 | 543,942 | 1,070,404 | -1,002,429 |

*Notes:*

1. A negative figure implies disinvestment.
2. The figures are consistent with the Financial Account, Table J. of the UK's Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin Q3 2009.
3. The annual figures are compiled by summing the flows of the four quarters.
4. The currency conversion is calculated quarterly by applying the average quarterly exchange rate to the quarterly flows.

*Source:*
ONS

## Government Departments: Telephone Services

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading West of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 550W, on Government departments: telephone services, if she will publish the report of the Contact Council's survey. [312306]

**Tessa Jowell:** In 2009, the Contact Council commissioned a survey from BT of the numbers listed in BT Directory Enquiries as belonging to government or public services and the number range they fell into. A summary of the results of this survey will be published on the Cabinet Office website. This survey informed a 'Statement of Clarification' on numbering strategies that was published in May 2009, which can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website, and will help inform the Channel Strategies which Departments will publish later in the year.

## Marriage: Statistics

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what changes have been made to the collation and distribution of Government statistics on marriage since 1997. [312048]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:*

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what changes have been made to the collation and distribution of Government statistics on marriage since 1997. I am replying in his absence. (312048)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing statistics on marriages registered in England and Wales. Marriage statistics for Scotland are published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), and marriage statistics for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). In order to publish marriage statistics for the UK, ONS compiles marriage figures for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The methods used to collate marriage statistics in England and Wales and in Scotland have remained largely unchanged since 1997. In Northern Ireland there was a small change in 2005, when a new registration system was implemented in the Northern Ireland GRO, giving NISRA a live link to the database rather than receiving quarterly downloads, and extending the range of additional information available from marriage registrations. Further information on the collation of marriage statistics for the UK and constituent countries can be found in the attached Annex.

Since 1997, marriage statistics for the UK and constituent countries have been distributed annually in a variety of publications. During this period, vital statistics have been made more accessible to users via increasing publication on the web, as opposed to paper-based publications. There have also been minor changes to publication timetables for marriage statistics, reflecting improvements in timeliness or quality of data. The attached Annex provides more detailed information about the dissemination of marriage statistics by ONS, GROS and NISRA.

*Annex*

*Collation of marriage statistics*

The methods used to collate marriage statistics in England and Wales have remained largely unchanged since 1997. Certified copies of each completed marriage entry appearing in the marriage register are sent to ONS by the General Register Office (GRO). These entries are included in a statistical database to enable the production and analysis of marriage statistics.

The methods used to collate marriage statistics in Scotland have remained largely unchanged since 1997 and are similar to those in England and Wales. For Northern Ireland however, there has been a slight change. Prior to 2005, NISRA received quarterly downloads from a Northern Ireland GRO database system. In 2005 a new registration system was implemented in GRO and consequently NISRA now have a live link to this database. As a result, NISRA now have access to all data entered at registration rather than just the key variables entered in the old database system. Some of the new data available includes information about the bride and groom's country of birth, nationality and current and future addresses.

*Distribution of marriage statistics*

The methods used to distribute marriage statistics in the UK have also remained relatively unchanged since 1997. Minor changes to publication timetables for marriage statistics have occurred since 1997, but figures continue to be distributed annually in a variety of publications.

For England and Wales, a first release of provisional marriage statistics is usually published by ONS between 13 and 16 months after the end of the data year. In 2002, the first release of provisional marriage statistics was published on the ONS website for the first time. Prior to 2002, the first release was a paper publication only and was distributed to interested organisations and individuals. Provisional quarterly marriage figures for the UK and its constituent countries have also been published in the ONS journal Population Trends since 1997.

Final marriage statistics for England and Wales are laid before parliament pursuant to Section 19 Registration Service Act 1953 in the annual reference volume: Series FM2 (Marriage, divorce and adoption statistics). For every year between 1997 and 2002 (inclusive) the first release of final statistics for England and Wales was in Series FM2. From 2003 however, final marriage statistics were made available on the date of the first release of provisional marriage statistics for the subsequent year, approximately one month before the publication of Series FM2.

Series FM2 no.27 (Marriage statistics in 1999) was the first ARV to be published on the ONS website in July 2001, a practice that has continued for subsequent volumes. Prior to 2001, paper copies were available from the publishers (The Stationery Office). Paper copies have also been supplied to the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Health since 1997. From 2005 onwards, the publication schedule of Series FM2 was changed so that it was published 27 months alter the end of the data year, rather than the previous 18 months. This change was implemented to improve the completeness of the final statistics and to minimise missing data.

In Scotland, provisional quarterly and annual marriage statistics are published by GROS approximately 10 weeks after the end of the quarter/calendar year. Final figures are published around 7 months after the end of the calendar year. The Registrar General's Annual Report ('Scotland's Population—The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends') contains some summary marriage statistics. Until 2000, the printed Annual Report included detailed tables of marriage statistics—these are now published on GROS' website within the annual Vital Events Reference Tables.

For Northern Ireland, NISRA releases quarterly marriage data three months after the end of that quarter. Provisional figures for the full registration year are released six months after the end of the registration year (when corresponding divorce data for the same period is available from the Northern Ireland Court Service). Finalised data are published in the Annual Report of the Registrar General, which is produced 11 months after the end of the registration year.

UK marriage statistics have been distributed by ONS in various statistical publications since 1997. These include regular tables in Population Trends and Health Statistics Quarterly (covering the UK and constituent countries), bespoke analysis in volumes such as Social Trends, and secondary analysis in articles for Population Trends. Further information on these publications can be provided on request.

*Other changes affecting the collation and distribution of marriage statistics*

In addition to the changes listed above, the following events have had some minor administrative impacts upon the collation and distribution of marriage statistics in the UK. However, the administration of statistics on marriage has remained largely unchanged since 1997.

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, which came into effect on 1 January 2001, amended the Marriage Act 1949. It required that notice of marriage had to be given in person by each of the parties to the marriage, where formerly it had been possible for notice of marriage to be given by one person on behalf of both.

The Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 allowed civil marriages to be solemnised at locations other than registration offices and authorised local councils to approve locations for marriage. This followed a similar change in England and Wales that was implemented in 1995.

The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 provided a greater choice of marriage venues and types of ceremony available and made the preliminaries to a marriage the same for everyone. The legislation also includes less strict residence requirements for marriage. These allow resident couples to marry in the area of their choice rather than the Local Government District they live in and make it easier for people from outside Northern Ireland to get married within Northern Ireland.

Measures included in the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 were introduced on 1 February 2005 to prevent the possibility of 'sham marriages'. These measures required individuals who are non EEA nationals subject to immigration control to give notice of their marriage at one of 76 designated Register Offices. These restrictions do not apply to marriages by Registrar General's Licence or ecclesiastical preliminaries (banns or licence).

On 1 April 2008, ONS became a non-ministerial government department. At the same time, GRO was moved out of ONS to the Identity and Passport Service. The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 transfers some of the statistical functions of the Registrar General, including the production of an annual abstract, to the UK Statistics Authority and ONS becomes the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority. The 2007 Act also provides the Registrar General with a power to allow him to disclose any information entered in a marriage register or recorded about a civil partnership to the UK Statistics Authority for statistical purposes. It also enables the UK Statistics Authority to produce and publish statistics relating to any matter.

As has already occurred for birth and death registration, and civil partnerships, a project is underway to implement a web-based Registration ONline (RON) system for marriage registration information to be entered electronically by all register offices across England and Wales. Marriage notices are currently collected on RON and it is planned that in approximately 12 months time, marriage entries will be provided to ONS electronically via the RON system.

## Senior Civil Servants: Pay

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on civil servants: pay, what the *(a)* name and *(b)* job title is of each of the senior civil servants who have a salary greater than £150,000; and who the employer is in each case. [312460]

**Angela E. Smith:** As set out by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Pre-Budget Report (CM 7747) at paragraph 6.50 the Government have undertaken to publish the salary, including benefits in kind and the level of any bonus, of named individual paid more than £150,000 to the nearest £5,000 for al public sector bodies, including Government Department subject to direct ministerial control.

The first information to be published on the Civi Service will cover payments during the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. This information will be placed in the Library.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 3 February 2010*

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Crown Prosecution Service: Victims

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Solicitor-General by what methods the Crown Prosecution Service has kept victims of crime informed of the progress of prosecutions since 2002. [315349]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) introduced the initiative known as Direct Communications with Victims in 2001. Under this initiative, victims are written to when key prosecution decisions are taken. Senior CPS prosecutors also meet victims or their families in very serious cases to explain decisions. Additionally the phased introduction of witness care units (WCU) across England and Wales during 2004-05 has meant that CPS and police staff are able to provide information and support to victims and other witnesses based on the individuals preferred means of contact.

### Dorneywood

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use the Attorney-General's Office has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [315465]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's Office has not used Dorneywood for any official engagements during the last year.

### Victims: Prosecutions

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the answer of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 729W, on prosecutions, when she expects the comprehensive review of resources available to victim and witness care to report. [315348]

**The Solicitor-General:** The review referred to was intended to assess and inform the staffing of the joint police/CPS witness care units (WCU), and thereafter the effective deployment of victim and witness care resources.

The first strand of the review, in relation to the staffing of the WCU, has been completed, and CPS resources dedicated to these units have been maintained for the financial year 2010-11. A further strand of the review will take place during 2010, to ensure full consideration is given to the impact of the launch of the National Victims Service.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315541]

**Ann McKechin:** No staff at the Scotland Office have the status of embedded communicators. No staff are members of the Government Communications Network and not listed in the COI White Book.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312831]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not employ any staff directly. All staff in the Office are seconded from other Government Departments, mainly the Scottish Executive and Ministry of Justice. Staffing information containing the grade and gender breakdown of all staff using the Scottish Executive's grading structure, for illustrative purposes, is published in the Office's annual report. Under this grading structure, there are currently nine grades between the most senior and the most junior posts in the Scotland Office. The Office does not keep information on salary and associated employment costs in the form requested.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314529]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office has not arranged any citizens' juries or summits since October 2008. On 31 October 2009 I attended a public consultative event on the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities in Edinburgh arranged by the Ministry of Justice.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many separate bookings for hotels graded at five star or above were made through the Expotel booking service by his Department in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost such bookings were made. [315544]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not separately record information on the grade of hotel booked by officials.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code. All expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

## WALES

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and ministerial colleagues on steps to be taken to reduce levels of child poverty in Wales. [314567]

**Mr. David:** During recent bi-lateral meetings with Ministers at the Welsh Assembly Government I have discussed the Child Poverty Bill. This Bill commits the Government to eradicating child poverty by 2020 and will enshrine in law an ambitious set of targets to achieve this goal.

The Government are also taking action to assist children from low income families across the UK through the introduction of Child Trust Funds enabling families to save for their children's future with additional funding for low income households. 64,000 children in Wales will benefit from an additional Welsh premium. The Government have also ensured an increase in the child element of child tax credit benefiting an estimated 380,000 children and in child benefit, benefiting an estimated 640,000 children in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government are further complementing these efforts through the introduction of legislation such as the proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure underpinning their commitment to the target set for 2020. This recognises families in poverty often face multiple disadvantages requiring specialist and intensive support. The Welsh Assembly Government also has in place a range of policies aimed at tackling child poverty including employment support programmes, childcare initiatives, education and health programmes and Communities First interventions.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313822]

**Mr. Hain:** Performance Management in the Wales Office is an ongoing process, with all staff undergoing annual and mid-year formal performance reviews. The total numbers of annual performance reviews carried out in each of the last five years are set out in the following table.

*Total annual performance reviews undertaken*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 52 |
| 2005-06 | 57 |
| 2006-07 | 57 |
| 2007-08 | 56 |
| 2008-09 | 59 |

Only a very small number of staff received 'unsatisfactory' markings during each of those five years. Therefore actual numbers cannot be provided without compromising staff confidentiality.

The award of an unsatisfactory performance marking invokes poor performance procedures, but would not directly result in dismissal. Support is provided to employees to reach and maintain the required standards of performance.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314531]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Register: Expenditure

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much was spent on electoral registration initiatives in each of the last 10 years. [315043]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that total expenditure on electoral registration initiatives in each of the last two years was as follows:

2007-08: £6,461,000

2008-09: £6,683,000

Initiatives included in these costs include guidance for electoral administrators, activity relating to the performance standards framework for electoral registration officers, research, the Commission's partnership grants programme and public awareness campaigns to promote voter registration.

Equivalent information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost as expenditure was accounted for under more than one corporate objective.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to the Electoral Commission. [314955]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that local authorities are not required to submit any data sets to the Commission.

However the Commission further informs me that Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers employed by the local authority are each asked to complete a self assessment return against a performance standards framework and also complete a financial information survey at the end of the financial year. Both the standards and the financial survey are available on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

### Local Government: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much had been spent on the Boundary Committee's review of the reorganisation of local government in Suffolk on the latest date for which figures are available. [314864]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the amount spent on the structural review of Suffolk to date is £463,950.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Criminal Justice and Policing: Devolution

10. **Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of progress in the devolution of criminal justice and policing to Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [314146]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for South Down (Mr. McGrady) and Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) and my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis).

### Prison Estate

11. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the prison estate in Northern Ireland. [314147]

**Paul Goggins:** I announced in December 2007 that 400 additional adult male places would be made available by the end of 2010. 230 of these are now operational and 140 under tender for construction. In addition further accommodation is being refurbished and brought back into use at Maghaberry. A detailed business case and design for the replacement prison at Magilligan is under way. An options appraisal for a discrete women's facility has been prepared. Final decisions must take account of funding availability.

### Organised Crime

12. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to reduce the financial assets of organised criminal gangs in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [314148]

**Paul Goggins:** The Organised Crime Task Force is committed to maximising the value of assets recovered from criminals. Last year £7.3 million of criminal assets were recovered in Northern Ireland against a minimum target of £6.2 million.

### Power Sharing

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of prospects for further power sharing in Northern Ireland. [314150]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for South Down (Mr. McGrady) and Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) and my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley East, and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis).

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315136]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the percentage of invoices that have been paid by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) within 10 working days during the nine month period to 31 December 2009.

| | *Percentage paid within 10 working days* |
|---|---|
| Core Department[1] | 92 |
| *Executive agencies:* | |
| Northern Ireland Prison Service | 92 |
| Compensation Agency | 98 |
| Forensic Science Northern Ireland | 83 |
| Youth Justice Agency | 81 |

[1] Including arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding Executive agencies and NDPBs

In line with guidance issued by Cabinet Office on 17 November 2008, the Department and agencies revised internal timescales for the processing and payment of invoices with effect from 1 December 2008. Since then, there has been a steady improvement in the NIO's statistics.

The Government policy of paying within 10 working days applies to invoices from all suppliers irrespective of size—no distinction is made for small or medium-sized enterprises and separate statistics relating to these groups are not recorded.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys have been provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10 to date; and at what cost to the public purse. [313172]

**Paul Goggins:** A BlackBerry was provided for the Secretary of State in February 2009 at a cost of £212 plus 15 per cent. VAT.

No other mobiles or BlackBerries were purchased for Ministers or special advisers in 2008-09 or 2009-10.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314530]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not hosted any citizens' juries or summits since October 2008.

### State Visits: Republic of Ireland

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons the President of the Irish Republic was invited to the Police Training College on 28 January 2010; and who invited her. [315358]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### 14 Tothill Street

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what expenditure the House of Commons Commission has incurred on *(a)* rent, *(b)* refurbishment, *(c)* business rates and *(d)* utility provision in respect of 14 Tothill Street in the last 12 months. [315095]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commons share of expenditure for 14 Tothill Street for the 12 months to 31 December 2009 was:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Rent | 2,400,000 |
| *(b)* Refurbishment | 1,300,000 |
| *(c)* Business rates | 175,000 |
| *(d)* Utilities | 28,000 |

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what contribution the House of Lords has made to the Commission towards the cost of *(a)* rent, *(b)* refurbishment, *(c)* business rates and *(d)* utilities in respect of 14 Tothill Street in the last 12 months. [315248]

**Nick Harvey:** The House of Lords made the following contributions for the year ended 31 December 2009:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Rent | 1,610,000 |
| *(b)* Refurbishment | 3,239,000 |
| *(c)* Business rates | 117,000 |
| *(d)* Utilities | 29,000 |

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Topical Debates

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Leader of the House how many applications have been received each week asking for subjects to be debated in topical debates since their inception; and what the 10 most popular subjects proposed for debate have been since procedures for such debates were instituted. [314676]

**Barbara Keeley:** I have today issued a written ministerial statement outlining proposed subjects for topical debate between 18 November 2009 and 31 January 2010.

Following a review of topical debate procedure in October 2007, the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has issued regular written ministerial statements setting out this information. These can be found in the *Official Report*:

7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 83WS

24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 110WS

14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 7WS

25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 79WS

12 February 2009 *Official Report*, column 108WS

3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 14WS

3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 135WS.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Salmon: Merseyside

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the size of the salmon population in *(a)* the River Mersey and *(b)* all rivers in the Merseyside region, (i) on the latest date for which information is available and (ii) (A) two, (B) five, (C) 10 and (D) 15 years ago. [314466]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The current assessment of the salmon population size in the Mersey catchment covers two elements of the fish's life cycle:

1. Numbers of adult fish entering the Mersey Catchment.
2. Numbers of juvenile salmon in the Rivers Goyt and Bollin.

No distinction is made between *(a)* River Mersey and *(b)* All Rivers in the Merseyside region when assessing adult salmon. All monitoring of adult numbers is carried out at the Woolston Weir Fish Pass and Trap in Warrington.

The Woolston fish pass was adapted to trap fish in 2001, shortly after evidence was collated to confirm the arrival of adult salmon in the river. It has since been run in the autumn of each year.

| | Number of adult salmon | Number of days fish trap is operated |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 3 | 18 |
| 2002 | 26 | 48 |
| 2003 | 1 | 6 |
| 2004 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 2005 | 42 | 10 |
| 2006 | 8 | 21 |
| 2007 | 35 | 41 |
| 2008 | 45 | 20 |
| 2009 | 3 | 4 |

[1] Shut for health and safety modification

The number of days spent trapping varies from year to year and is dependent upon the amount of resource available.

Video technology is currently being developed for the trap to enable the remote counting of adult salmon all year round.

Juvenile salmon distribution is currently monitored on the River Goyt by electric fishing for young fish and the counting of adult redds (nests). Since young salmon were discovered on the River Goyt in 2001, they have been counted in small numbers every year on the river.

| | Number of juvenile salmon | Number of surveys in the lower Goyt |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 4 | 4 |
| 2006 | 6 | 8 |
| 2007 | 4 | 5 |
| 2008 | 0 | 1 |
| 2009 | 1 | 6 |

Juvenile salmon surveys will start on the River Bollin in 2010. This river has now been opened up to adults by the building of two new fish passes, developed as part of the Environment Agency Mersey Life project.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Broadband

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK households do not have access to broadband internet services. [315026]

**Mr. Timms:** Ofcom's Communications Market Report: English Regions (Published August 2009) reported that about 4,200 UK households were not connected to a broadband enabled exchange at the end of 2008. The report can be found at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/cm/cmrnr09/england/nrcmreng.pdf

For some 11 per cent. of households connected to a broadband enabled exchange, line lengths or other technical issue mean that the speed delivered to the customer is less than 2 Mbits.

### Business

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department collates on the *(a)* number of businesses in and *(b)* annual revenue of the independent hand car wash sector. [312694]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 29 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what information the department collates on the (a) number of businesses in and (b) annual revenue of the independent hand car wash sector (312694).

The ONS does not collect information specifically relating to the independent car wash sector. This industry is subsumed within a larger industrial classification, which is 'Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles' and estimates of the number of businesses and their revenue can only be produced for the aggregate.

### Copyright: Recordings

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward legislation to clarify the lawfulness of copying for personal use a recording the copier purchased; and if he will make a statement. [314151]

**Mr. Lammy:** The law in this area is clear: it does not permit the copying for personal use of a recording the copier has purchased, without permission of the copyright holder. For example, tracks purchased online are often accompanied by licences permitting consumers to make a limited number of copies for their own use, but many CDs have "all rights reserved".

The Government carefully considered this issue in their Copyright Strategy, "© the way ahead", and the second stage consultation on copyright exceptions arising from the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property. We concluded that a UK-only approach will be unable to deliver the correct balance between the access that consumers desire and the appropriate remuneration that rights holders need. EU-wide consideration is required, which we would support.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department incurred on representation at official level at overseas events in each of the last five years. [314273]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not centrally record details of representation at official level at overseas events. The Department holds information on overseas travel at the aggregate level but does not specifically relate these costs to events abroad, to obtain this information would entail disproportionate cost.

The Department publishes details of senior staff on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/board/expenses

Overseas conferences attended are included.

### Employment: Females

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of women who work *(a)* between one and five, *(b)* between six and 10, *(c)* between 11 and 15, *(d)* between 16 and 20, *(e)* between 21 and 25, *(f)* between 25 and 30, *(g)* between 31 and 35 and *(h)* over 35 hours a week in each year since 1997. [313558]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of women who work (a) between one and five, (b) between six and 10, (c) between 11 and 15, (d) between 16 and 20, (e) between 21 and 25, (f) between 25 and 30, (g) between 31 and 35 and (h) over 35 hours a week in each year since 1997. (313558)

The table provided shows the usual weekly hours worked by women as published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, accessible via the link below. Estimates for the more detailed categories requested are not available on a basis consistent with those published.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1944

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

*Usual weekly hours of work[1] for women in employment: Three month periods ending November, 1997 to2009—United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted*

*Percentage*

| | *Less than 6 hours* | *6 up to 15 hours* | *16 up to 30 hours* | *31 up to 45 hours* | *Over 45 hours* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3.1 | 13.9 | 27.3 | 45.3 | 10.4 |
| 1998 | 3.0 | 14.1 | 27.2 | 45.6 | 10.1 |
| 1999 | 3.0 | 13.2 | 27.7 | 45.8 | 10.2 |
| 2000 | 2.7 | 13.1 | 28.7 | 45.4 | 10.1 |
| 2001 | 2.5 | 12.4 | 28.9 | 46.3 | 9.9 |
| 2002 | 2.5 | 12.0 | 29.1 | 46.1 | 10.2 |
| 2003 | 2.5 | 12.2 | 29.6 | 46.0 | 9.7 |
| 2004 | 2.3 | 11.9 | 29.6 | 46.7 | 9.6 |
| 2005 | 2.2 | 11.2 | 29.6 | 47.6 | 9.5 |
| 2006 | 2.5 | [illegible] | 29.6 | 46.8 | 9.7 |
| 2007 | 2.2 | 11.4 | 29.3 | 47.5 | 9.7 |
| 2008 | 2.3 | 10.7 | 30.1 | 47.3 | 9.7 |
| 2009 | 2.3 | 11.0 | 30.8 | 46.3 | 9.6 |

[1] Main job only including paid and unpaid overtime.

*Note:*

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

## Higher Education: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, 848-9W, on higher education: Chelmsford, how many applicants from *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area did not get a place at university in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [314497][1]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]*: The information is in the following table.

*Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority area 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| | *Year of entry* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| *West Chelmsford constituency* | | | |
| Applicants | 874 | 915 | 984 |
| Of which: | | | |
| Obtained a place | 753 | 786 | 834 |
| Unplaced | 121 | 129 | 150 |
| *Chelmsford local authority* | | | |
| Applicants | 1,372 | 1,402 | 1,517 |
| Of which: | | | |
| Obtained a place | 1,190 | 1,195 | 1,287 |
| Unplaced | 182 | 207 | 230 |

## Insolvency

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of creditors' committees in scrutinising insolvency practitioners. [315192]

**Ian Lucas:** Creditors have a financial interest in the outcome of insolvency proceedings and are therefore well placed to monitor the actions of insolvency practitioners. Ultimately insolvency practitioners are subject to the control of the court.

The OFT is currently undertaking a study into various aspects of the corporate insolvency market.

## Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to provide financial support for manufacturing industry. [315436]

**Ian Lucas:** The manufacturing strategy, launched in September 2008 brings together over £150 million support for a range of policy measures that address key issues impacting on competitiveness such as skills, design, technology, global value chains and the move to a low carbon economy.

The advanced manufacturing package of measures announced in July 2009 provides more than £150 million from the strategic investment fund to support the development of high tech manufacturing that will enable UK manufacturers to take advantage of new market opportunities.

In addition, manufacturing benefits from:

The Real Help for Business package—support for manufacturers is described in the leaflet which is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53764.pdf

The Vehicle Scrappage Scheme where more than 330,000 orders for new vehicles have been placed.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service which has been expanded and has conducted over 32,000 manufacturing reviews and supported more than 11,800 implementation projects worth nearly £700 million value added.

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[1] *[Official Report, 8 April 2010, Vol. 508, c. 15MC.]*

## Museums and Galleries: Finance

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent representations he has received on the Higher Education Funding Council for England's review of funding for its Museums, Galleries and Collections Fund; and when he expects the review to be published; [308095]

(2) how much funding the Higher Education Funding Council for England has allocated to museums and galleries in each of the last five years, expressed in 2009-10 prices. [308096]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The Higher Education Museum, Galleries and Collections Fund recognises the importance of these nationally valued institutions. I am pleased that the resources we have allocated to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) mean that they are planning not only to continue this funding stream, but also to increase it to £10.6 million in 2010/11.

However, it is important that all special funding streams are reviewed periodically. This ensures that public funds continue to be spent wisely. The Museums Fund is currently under review by a panel appointed by the Funding Council. The review will make broad recommendations about the fund's future. The HEFCE Board will make detailed funding decisions for individual institutions based on these recommendations. I understand that those decisions are expected to be made before the summer, after which the review report will be published.

The Department has received correspondence from Oxford university and the university of Central Lancashire on this subject.

The total allocation in each year is as follows:

*University Museums and Galleries Funding*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 10.8 |
| 2006/07 | 9.9 |
| 2007/08 | 8.2 |
| 2008/09 | 10.2 |
| 2009/10 | 10.1 |
| 2010/11 | 10.6 |

*Note:*
The figures show levels of the Higher Education Museum, Galleries and Collections Fund over the past five years in cash terms. In 2005/06 the fund was administered by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The figure for 2005/06 shows both core and project funding from the AHRC and is not comparable to that for subsequent years.

## Royal Mail: Snow and Ice

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on its service to customers in areas which did not receive mail deliveries during the recent adverse weather conditions; what *(a)* information and *(b)* consultation Royal Mail held with such customers; and what assessment has been made of whether the universal service obligation was complied with during the period of adverse weather conditions. [314467]

**Mr. McFadden:** Department officials were in contact with Royal Mail during the severe weather. Decisions relating to operational matters are the direct responsibility of the company and local assessments were made on whether services could operate safely under local conditions. Royal Mail kept customers informed of disrupted services via its website:

www.royalmail.com

but due to the nature of the changing conditions, assessments had to be regularly made and it was not always possible to give customers advanced notice of whether local services will be operating as normal.

Postcomm, the independent postal regulator, is responsible for monitoring Royal Mail's performance in relation to the universal service obligation. The regulator receives regular compliance reports from Royal Mail regarding its quality of service and will where appropriate raise any reasonable concerns with the company over any significant interruption to local services due to the severe weather conditions.

The Government would like to thank postmen and women up and down the country for their efforts to deliver the mail in the face of the extreme weather conditions recently experienced in the UK.

## Train to Gain Programme

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on skills brokers under the Train to Gain programme in each of the last three years. [314781]

**Kevin Brennan:** The expenditure for each of the three years is set out in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 28 |
| 2007-08 | 39 |
| 2008-09 | 45 |

## Video Games: Finance

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much financial assistance was given by regional development agencies to the video games industry in 2008-09. [312993]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The following table shows how much has been invested by each RDA in projects specifically aimed at the video game industry.

| *RDA* | *RDA financial assistance to the video games industry in 2008-09 (£000)*[1] |
|---|---|
| AWM | 729 |
| EEDA | 288 |
| EMDA | 0 |
| LDA | 250 |
| NWDA | 135 |
| ONE | 931 |
| SEEDA | 58 |
| SWERDA | 0 |
| YF | 195 |

[1] To identify the financial assistance that has been provided from broader programmes (e.g. business support) would incur disproportionate cost.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value of cash allowances awarded to military staff in Afghanistan was in 2008-09. [314182]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The monetary value of cash allowances awarded to military staff in Afghanistan in 2008-09 was £30.6 million on local overseas allowance and longer separation allowance. These allowances contribute towards the necessary additional local cost of day-to-day living of those serving overseas and compensate personnel who are experiencing longer than usual separation from their families.

A further £66.5 million was awarded for the operational allowance in Iraq and Afghanistan, of which approximately £40 million was in Afghanistan. This allowance recognises the increased danger involved in serving in specified operational locations, over and above that which is taken into account in basic pay.

The allowances were funded from the reserve as a net additional cost of military operations.

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W, on Afghanistan, to how many of his Department's civilian staff based in Afghanistan in 2008-09 the total was paid. [314375]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** In financial year 2008-09, operational allowances were paid to 104 MOD civilian personnel based in Afghanistan.

### Armed Forces: Absence without Leave

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were absent without leave in each month in 2009. [314478]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held centrally in the format requested. Centrally held information relates to the number of absent without leave incidents and not to the number of personnel. Additionally, data are only available by month in respect of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. In respect of the Army, only the year to date total is held centrally and to obtain this information by month will require a manual search of records which could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The available figures are provided in the following table.

AWOL statistics are recorded by the number of incidences reported, because the figures may include service personnel who have been AWOL on more than one occasion. Furthermore, following the reporting of an incidence of AWOL, information may later come to light of extenuating circumstances for that unauthorised absence, such as compassionate, hospitalisation or travel delays beyond the individual's control. In such cases a service person may not be formally charged but the incidence is still recorded.

*Incidents of reported AWOL for each month of 2009*

| | Royal Navy | Army | Royal Air Force |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 5 | — | 1 |
| February | 10 | — | 0 |
| March | 10 | — | 0 |
| April | 5 | — | 0 |
| May | 10 | — | 0 |
| June | 10 | — | 0 |
| July | 10 | — | 0 |
| August | 5 | — | 1 |
| September | 10 | — | 0 |
| October | 10 | — | 1 |
| November | 5 | — | 3 |
| December | 0 | — | 0 |
| Total | 85[1] | [1]2,110 | 6 |

[1] This is the number of recorded incidences, not the number of people AWOL or the number of charges brought.

*Note:*

Figures for the Royal Navy and Army are rounded to the nearest five.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315130]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence, its agencies and trading funds are fully committed to achieving the Government target of paying 90 per cent. of invoices within 10 days, and is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

Since March 2009, we have consistently exceeded the target, and the latest figures show that 98.74 per cent. of invoices submitted by all suppliers were paid within 10 days of receipt. But we are not complacent and continue to seek improvements in our bill-paying performance to ensure that all our suppliers are paid promptly.

We have made no separate assessment of the time taken to pay small and medium-sized enterprises.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department *(a)* allocated for and *(b)* spent on public relations activities in each year since 2001; how much was spent on external consultants in each such year; what companies were contracted to provide such services in each such year; and how much he plans to spend on such activities in 2010. [315032]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The setting of detailed budgetary allocations is delegated to local budget holders. These allocations are revised constantly throughout the financial year to reflect changes in the Department's priorities. They are not therefore held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, information on the final budget where this is available is set out in the following table.

Expenditure on public relations activities (mainly recruitment for the armed forces) has been as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 35.1 |
| 2002-03 | 52.5 |
| 2003-04 | 61.7 |
| 2004-05 | 79.3 |
| 2005-06 | 76.2 |
| 2006-07 | 43.0 |
| 2007-08 | 46.3 |
| 2008-09 | [1]55.2 |

[1] Of an allocated budget of £56.7 million

A summary of the MOD's expenditure on external assistance has been placed annually in the Library of the House since 1995-96. The summary includes expenditure information provided by our trading funds that lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary. Budgetary information is not held. External assistance includes management consultancy, specialist lawyers, commercial bankers and IT expertise. Consultants help us to increase our efficiency and effectiveness but we employ them only when we cannot do the work ourselves and can demonstrate value for money.

A list of companies providing public relations services or external assistance is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, we do publish an annual list of those organisations the MOD pays £5 million or more to during the financial year. This information is in Chapter 1 (most recently in Table 1.17) of UK Defence Statistics, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The current and historical editions are also available on the MOD's website at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=1

This list includes those major contractors providing external assistance. Where public relations services are required, the MOD may also contract with companies included in the Public Relations Framework, a centralised procurement service run by the Central Office of Information.

We are reviewing the detail of final budgets for 2009-10 pending the presentation of the Spring Supplementary Estimates to Parliament later this month.

Detailed budgetary information for 2010-11 is not yet available as we are reviewing our detailed resource allocations for that year to take account of current priorities, commitments and budgetary pressures.

### Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313585]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** It is not possible to assess the costs to the Department of the disruption to transport arrangements and the consequent impact on the ability of staff to attend for work during the period of the recent bad weather. Costs such as the costs of structural damage to Defence facilities and infrastructure could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Costs were incurred by the Department in providing military assistance to the civil community where there was an immediate threat to human life or to alleviate suffering. It is standard practice not to charge for such assistance and consequently information on the costs of these operations is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Department provided assistance to several external organisations where lives were not in imminent danger. The cost of such assistance will be reimbursed by the external organisations involved and there will be no net cost to the Department.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the travel guidelines issued to staff of each of his Department's agency and non-departmental public bodies. [315144]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department does not hold any travel guidelines issued by its agency or non-departmental public bodies. Any payment in relation to travel should be made in accordance with Managing Public Money.

### Digital Broadcasting: Radio

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with local radio stations on the *(a)* financial and *(b)* other effects on them of the digital switchover. [314764]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department has held two local radio summits with the commercial radio representative body RadioCentre, to discuss the effects of the Digital Radio Switchover with small station owners.

### Digital Broadcasting: Religious Buildings

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of places of worship on the effects on them of the digital switchover. [314763]

**Mr. Simon:** I have had no recent discussions.

### Football: World Cup

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on support for the Football Association's FIFA 2018 World cup bid. [315011]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In addition to staff costs, the Department is making a loan of £2.5 million to the Football Association in support of England's bid to host the 2018 World cup. This money will be used for developing the technical bid and not on entertaining or salaries. It will also be repaid into grass roots football if the bid is unsuccessful, with the loan and a share of the profits from the tournament going into the grass roots if successful. As a result, this represents good value for money for sport.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials of his Department are working on the bid for the UK to host the 2018 World cup. [315012]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Four of my officials are currently working on the bid for England to host the 2018 World cup as part of their wider remit that involves all major sporting events.

### Licensing

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315218]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department and its Agency have not spent anything on font licensing in the last three years.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set *(a)* municipal libraries and *(b)* local authorities are required to submit to his Department and its agencies. [314956]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no statutory requirements for submission of datasets from local authorities.

Local authorities that have signed up to the free swimming initiative are responsible for submitting quarterly data on the number of free swims that have taken place in their area each month as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme. The Department also collects details of alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licensing from licensing authorities on an annual basis.

The Department does not receive any datasets from municipal libraries.

### Museums and Galleries

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of visitors to museums in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England in 2009. [315028]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer February 2010]*: My Department collects figures for visitor numbers for museums we fund either through our grant in aid programme or through our Renaissance in the Regions programme. We have no figures for museums in Lancashire.

Visits to museums in the North West and England in receipt of grant in aid or Renaissance funding are detailed in the table:

| *Areas that are funded by DCMS* | *Museums in receipt of funding through Renaissance in the regions January to September 2009* | *Sponsored museums 2009* |
|---|---|---|
| North West total visits | [1]1,465,046 | [2]23,300,000 |
| England total visits | 13,833,359 | 41,100,000 |

[1] The museums included in the North West are: Manchester Art Gallery, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Manchester Museum, and Whitworth Art Gallery

[2] Imperial War Musem North, Museum Of Science and Industry, National Museums Liverpool, Tate Liverpool

Validated data for museums funded by Renaissance is only available up to September 2009. Data for the year will be available in March 2010.

### Public Holidays

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315122]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department has made no such estimate.

### Sports: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has taken steps to encourage participation in sport in Torbay constituency in order to reduce levels of obesity; and whether it has made funding available for this purpose in 2009-10. [315149]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is primarily focused on increasing sports participation, with Sport England as our key delivery partner. However, this is part of a joint target with the Department of Health to get two million more people more physically active, including one million more people playing more sport. DCMS and Sport England work very closely with the Department for Health across this target and sport will, of course, have a great positive effect on people's health.

As the non-departmental public body with responsibility for community sport, Sport England's aim is to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport and develop talent to drive standards of elite performance throughout the country. Their funding is distributed as part of the commitment to get one million more people playing more sport by 2012.

National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are at the heart of the strategy as it is their networks of community clubs, coaches and volunteers that make sport happen. Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 governing bodies over the next four years and have agreed grow, sustain and excel targets with each one. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan to achieve these targets.

In addition to the current funding being invested through NGBs, Sport England has invested a total of £776,115 Exchequer funding into Torbay since 2002. This includes a recent investment of £634,615 into the Brixham Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Society in order to modernise the pool. Swim Torquay Limited also received funding of £136,500 in 2008-09 to extend their facilities. Sport England has further invested £317,771 of Lottery funding to various projects throughout Torbay since 2002-03.

### Swimming: Concessions

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free swims *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* those under the age of 16 years resident in (i) North East Lincolnshire and (ii) North Lincolnshire local authority area have received in each year since his Department's free swimming programmes were introduced. [315235]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number of unique participants in the Free Swimming programme is not collected centrally. Local authorities are responsible for collecting data on the number of free swims that have taken place in their area each month.

The table shows the total number of free swims that have taken place under the free swimming scheme by people aged 16 years and under and people aged 60 and over in North East Lincolnshire local authority and North Lincolnshire local authority between April 2009, when the scheme began, and September 2009.

This is not a measure of the total number of individual participants taking part in free swimming, as the Department does not hold these figures.

| *Local authority* | *Under 16 swims* | *Over 60s swims* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East Lincolnshire[1] | 0 | 20,938 | 20,938 |
| North Lincolnshire | 74,961 | 15,305 | 90,266 |

[1] NE Lincolnshire did not offer free swimming to under 16s.

### Television: Licensing

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the television licence fee. [314755]

**Mr. Simon:** I regularly receive representations on the level of the licence fee. Multi-annual funding settlements for the BBC help to guarantee the independence of the BBC and Government will continue to respect that principle.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether TV Licensing is authorised to undertake surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; and what powers of entry it has. [314962]

**Mr. Simon:** The interpretation of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 is a matter for TV Licensing.

TV Licensing officers may enter a person's home or business premises only with his or her consent or if authorised to do so by a warrant issued by a justice of the peace, a sheriff in Scotland, or a lay magistrate in Northern Ireland.

Under section 366 of the Communications Act 2003, in order to issue such a warrant the presiding judge must be satisfied by information provided on oath, that there are reasonable grounds for believing that an offence of not holding a licence while having installed or using a TV receiver has been or is being committed; that evidence of the commission of the offence is likely to be on the premises, and there is no other practicable way to lawfully gain entry to the premises.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Crime: Halton

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in *(a)* overall recorded crime, *(b)* recorded violent crime, *(c)* burglary and *(d)* vehicle thefts in Halton has been between 2000 and the most recent date for which figures are available. [313425]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The available information relates to the Halton Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area. Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, data for 2000-01 and 2008-09 are not directly comparable. Percentage changes between 2002-03 and 2008-09 for the requested offences have been given in the table.

*Percentage change in selected offences recorded by the police in Halton—2002-03 to 2008-09*

| | *Percentage change between 2002-03 and 2008-09* |
|---|---|
| Total recorded crime | -7 |
| Violence against the person | 39 |
| Burglary | -14 |
| Vehicle thefts[1] | -37 |

[1] Includes theft or from a vehicle.

### Crimes of Violence: Convictions

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were convicted of serious violent crime offences in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; [313598]

(2) how many people were convicted of overall violent crime offences in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [313600]

**Claire Ward:** I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the North East Government Office Region (GOR) and England for offences of violence against the person, by offence, in 2007 and 2008 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for the North East GOR in which the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside are located.

Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn 2010.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts in the North East Government Office Region[1] and England for offences of violence against the person, by offence, 2007 and 2008[2, 3]*

| | *2007* | | *2008* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Violent offences* | *North East Region* | *England* | *North East Region* | *England* |
| More serious offences—indictable | 225 | 3,236 | 202 | 3,217 |
| Less serious offences—indictable | 2,707 | 35,873 | 2,578 | 35,842 |
| Summary offences | 2,885 | 49,931 | 2,676 | 49,620 |
| Total indictable and summary offences of violence against the person | 5,817 | 89,040 | 5,456 | 88,679 |

[1] Includes:
Cleveland police force area;
Durham police force area;
Northumbria police force area.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### DNA: Databases

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his contribution on Second Reading of the Crime and Security Bill, 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 35, from which document the facts were drawn on matches drawn from the national DNA database in 2008-09 for cases of rape and manslaughter from people who had been arrested but not convicted of a serious crime. [313693]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 27 January 2010]:* These statistics were provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency based on their analysis of data drawn from the Police National Computer by the ACPO Criminal Records Office.

### Firearms

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many handguns were held in England and Wales by virtue of firearm certificates in each year since 2004-05. [313779]

**Alan Johnson:** Available data relate to handguns and muzzle-loading handguns possessed on certificate for 2004-05 and 2005-06, and are given in the table. Data on certification are now drawn from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) and information in this degree of detail is not at present available.

*Handguns and muzzle-loading handguns possessed on certificate: England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2007-08*

| | Handguns | Muzzle-loading handguns |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05[1] | 16,016 | 7,911 |
| 2005-06[2] | 16,399 | 8,728 |
| 2006-07[3] | n/a | n/a |
| 2007-08[4] | n/a | n/a |

n/a denotes figures not available.

[1] Information on the firearms breakdown was provided by 37 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. The missing six forces are: Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and South Wales.

[2] Information on the firearms breakdown was provided by 38 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. The missing five forces are: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and Sussex.

[3] Figures for 2006-07 are not available, due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

[4] Figures for 2007/08 are not available, due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) in 2006.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 986-7W, on human trafficking, what estimate he has had made of the number of victims of trafficking for forced labour who have not received accommodation and support since 1 April 2009. [313657]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** All victims of trafficking for forced labour that have been identified since 1 April 2009 have been provided with accommodation or support.

### Remand in Custody: Young People

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours young offenders on remand aged under 18 years spent on education, training and personal development in each young offenders institution serving as a remand centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [314582]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Justice Board reports the number of hours per week that young people spend undertaking education, training and personal development activities across the secure estate. This is a broad category that includes education provision delivered by learning providers commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council, as well as interventions, group work sessions, vocational training, and physical education classes delivered directly by the Prison Service or institution.

The YJB have introduced a new set of data items to allow them to monitor the secure estate. Data based on a new and more robust set of indicators are presented here for STCs and SCHs for September 2009. Data using the previous indicator are presented for YOIs. This information is presented in the following tables.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) reports that the average number of hours of OLASS funded learning and skills provision (not including personal development activity) delivered per learner per week in the public sector YOIs in the academic year 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 was 15.89 hours.

Data are not broken down to show the number of hours spent on education, training and personal development by young people held on remand but the information from the YJB and the LSC includes young people held on remand.

The data supplied by the Youth Justice Board are drawn from administrative computer systems. As with any large scale recording system, the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

*September 2009*

| | Average number of hours |
|---|---|
| Average hours of education, training and personal development activity per week for young people at Public youth offenders institutes (YOIs) | 25.6 |
| Average hours of education, training and personal development activity per week for young people at Private youth offenders institutes (YOIs) | 21.8 |

*September 2009*

| | Average number of hours |
|---|---|
| Average hours of education received per young person per week at SCHs | 23.5 |
| Average hours of education received per young person per week at STCs | 25.8 |

## Slough

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [311983]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 2000. The available statistical information relates to the Slough borough.

In terms of police recorded crime, data prior to 2002-03 is not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime in Slough fell by 7 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—up 47 per cent.

Sexual offences—up 23 per cent.

Robbery—up 12 per cent.

Burglary—down 41 per cent.

Offences against vehicles—down 16 per cent.

Other theft offences—no change.

Criminal damage—up 10 per cent.

Drug offences—up 45 per cent.

Slough local police area together with the Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest form Berkshire East Basic Command Unit (BCU). As at 31 March 2009 the BCU had 633 police officers.

Comparisons with 2000 for Slough or Berkshire East are not available. There were 90 police community support officers as at 31 March 2009 in the Berkshire East BCU while there were none in existence in 2000.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The CDRP has brought new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, Council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

Since 2003 Slough has been funded by the Home Office as an 'intensive' Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) area enabling Slough to tackle drug-related offending through a range of intensive' DIP applications including drug-testing on arrest and Restriction on Bail provisions allowing more offenders to be targeted, steered into treatment and out of a life of crime.

Slough's DIP budget for 2009-10 is £866,958. The operation of DIP in Slough in 2008-09 saw over 1,500 arrestees being drug-tested and 274 people referred into drug treatment.

Slough, as part of Thames Valley police force has been involved in the Tackling Knives Action Programme for the previous two years. This has provided additional funding and focus to work with young people and the community to prevent and educate about knife crime and serious youth violence as well as undertake enforcement operations to tackle this type of crime. Slough, as part of Berkshire East, has also received funding and support from the Home Office to tackle domestic and sexual violence. The BCU has received £95,000 to support Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences that support the highest risk victims of domestic violence since 2007-8.

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Since 2005-06 at least 155 antisocial behaviour contracts have been issued. Numbers of antisocial behaviour orders have not been published since 2006 and were previously published only at force level.

Slough has benefited from additional funding to tackle antisocial behaviour and improve confidence in its community. In 2009 Slough began operating as a Neighbourhood Crime and Justice pilot area. Key actions have included:

Producing a new set of ASB Service Standards.

Overseeing 2226 hours of Community Payback in Slough during October 2009.

Implementing Community Cashback (assets recovered from criminals). On November 25 a £36,000 cheque from the LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board) was presented to the Britwell Youth Centre.

Raising awareness of the policing pledge and the rights the public can expect from police when dealing with crime and ASB.

Setting up support for ASB victims and witnesses, ensuring they are supported appropriately.

Publishing all Slough borough council court successes in The Citizen every two months.

Distributing newsletters for North, South and East Slough.

There are 80 CCTV cameras installed in the Town Hall, the Town Centre, Farnham Road and other smaller shopping parades, together with some housing estates and leisure sites and are linked to the council's CCTV monitoring centre. CCTV also operate three mobile CCTV cameras, one of which has a built in digital recorder which can be installed across the borough when required.

Neighbourhood policing has been implemented in Slough since April 2008. Slough borough council has allocated Community Safety Project Officers, Environmental Enforcement Officers and Community Wardens to each of the three police neighbourhood sectors (North, South and East Slough). This means both council and police are properly represented at resident meetings, including Neighbourhood Policing Neighbourhood Action Groups (there is one for each ward).

Slough has received £250,000 funding and support as part of the Youth Crime Action Plan since 2008. This has focused on the following activities:

Using child protection legislation to remove young people from the streets at night and take them to a safe place, building on lessons from initiatives such as Operation Staysafe.

Using street-based teams of workers to tackle groups of young people involved in crime and disorder

Tackling antisocial behaviour and disorder at school closing time by increasing after-school police patrols where needed.

Placing youth offending team workers in police custody suites so that young offenders can be assessed and directed to appropriate services at the earliest opportunity;

Making young offenders feel the consequences of their actions by expanding YOT reparation schemes during their leisure time, including on Friday and Saturday nights;

Developing Family Intervention Projects to work with the most vulnerable and problematic families with children at risk of offending, with non-negotiable elements and sanctions for a failure to engage;

Implementation of the 'think family' reforms to provide an integrated and appropriate service response to all families at risk by the end of the funding period.

Slough has received additional funding through the Migration Impact Fund to support delivery of council services being impacted by increased migration. They have received £490,000 in 2009-10 to deliver three projects:

Supporting migrant children through dedicated programmes to assess newly-arrived families and supporting hard to reach groups. This also includes rationalising translation and interpreter services and tailored ESOL provision.

Migrant's Resource Centre focusing on health, education and environmental health, by raising awareness of appropriate access and recruiting community advocates to work with services. Tailored ESOL provision in neighbourhoods on life skills, laws and customs.

Improving housing conditions in the privately rented sector housing a multi-agency programme to improve standards of houses in multiple occupation.

### Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was collected in fines for benefit fraud *(a)* in each region in England and *(b)* in Wales in each of the last two years. [314574]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

HMCS systems do not identify the value of fines collected for specific offences and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The total value of all financial penalties collected in each of the HMCS regions and Wales for the last two years is as follows:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| London | 38,252,467 | 35,497,811 |
| Midlands | 49,334,655 | 47,945,264 |
| North East | 35,700,661 | 33,397,953 |
| North West | 35,906,704 | 34,972,432 |
| South East | 52,314,591 | 52,209,726 |
| South West | 28,259,819 | 27,053,693 |
| Wales | 16,348,762 | 15,442,822 |

### Stop and Search

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 822W, on stop and search: Greater London, how many *(a)* searches and *(b)* subsequent actions taken in each year, were carried out on people aged (i) under 10, (ii) under 16 and (iii) between 17 and 25 years. [315003]

**Alan Johnson:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on stops and searches reported to the Home Office does not include the ages of persons searched.

### Telecommunications: Databases

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Interception Modernisation Programme. [314772]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government's consultation paper "Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment", published in April 2009, outlined high-level initial estimates of the cost of the options considered as part of the Interception Modernisation Programme. These were in the range of up to £2 billion over a 10-year period.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Action for Employment

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of people who have attended A4e meetings as part of programmes delivered under contract to her Department have found work within six months since the inception of those contracts in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes. [310775]

**Jim Knight:** This information is not available in the format requested.

### Action for Employment: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have attended A4e meetings in Milton Keynes as part of programmes delivered under contract to her Department have found work within six months since the inception of those contracts. [310776]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not available in the format requested.

### Departmental Aviation

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials of her Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [300972]

**Jim Knight:** 25,860 domestic flights were taken by Department for Work and Pensions staff, of whom there are some 111,000 throughout Great Britain, during 2008-09 at a total cost of £2.97 million. This has fallen from £4 million in 2004-05.

All official travel within the Department is carried out in accordance with the requirements of both the Civil Service Management Code

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/CSMC_April08.doc

and departmental business travel policy.

The Department's business travel policy promotes sustainable travel and air travel is the least preferred method of travel. Departmental policy is that staff should always consider travelling by rail rather than air and must take into account the full trip time (including travelling to and from the airport, checking time etc.), sustainability impact, business needs, convenience and cost when making this decision.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what efficiency savings projects *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies put in place under the Operational Efficiency programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to departmental savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [300944]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has been making substantial efficiencies in its back-office operations throughout the last two Spending Review periods, and was used as an exemplar in the Budget 2009 Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) report. Hence, many of the recommendations of the report were already underway in DWP prior to the report's publication.

Within the Department's "business as usual" operating model are the following activities, all sanctioned by OEP:

All new procurement is conducted collaboratively;

Driving value for money in all new IT contracts, under our future contracting strategy;

Proactively managing internal demand for IT resources;

Benchmarking of property and IT resources; and

Centralisation of back-office functions—with major savings through our shared services organisation, but smaller achievements also demonstrated in other corporate functions.

The Department will continue to report on its efficiency and value for money achievements in its departmental report and other publications. For example, we reported in our 2009 autumn performance report that we had delivered £581 million of efficiency savings during 2008-09 alone.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in her Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312829]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are nine layers of management in the Department for Work and Pensions. The following table gives a headcount breakdown of the number of people in each management grade at 31 March 2009.

| *Grade* | *Jobcentre Plus* | *Pensions and Disability Centre* | *Corporate and Shared Services* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permanent Secretary | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Director General | 0 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Director | 11 | 6 | 40 | 57 |
| Deputy Director | 34 | 18 | 156 | 208 |
| Grade 6 | 135 | 60 | 378 | 573 |
| Grade 7 | 341 | 113 | 1,006 | 1,460 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 1,092 | 326 | 1,199 | 2,617 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 4,083 | 691 | 2,275 | 7,049 |
| Executive Officer | 29,580 | 5,106 | 3,340 | 38,026 |
| Total | 35,276 | 6,321 | 8,402 | 49,999 |

It is not possible to split staff and associated costs down further by grade as information is not readily available at the level of detail requested, neither is this possible for associated costs of employment. The costs of providing such information would be disproportionate.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate she has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313232]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Work and Pensions has no staff in transition prior to being managed out.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305527]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the use of external resources to conduct *(a)* ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear is detailed in the following tables and is set out as total costs by financial year and is exclusive of VAT.

*(a) Ministerial photoshoots*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | Nil |
| 2008 | 906.82 |
| 2009 | 1,000.00 |

*(b) Production of videos in which Ministers appear*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 97,977.96 |

*(b) Production of videos in which Ministers appear*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 16,100.00 |
| 2009 | 2,621.50 |

[1] This also includes some reproduction and distribution costs where it has not been possible to separate them out.

These photos and videos were used to promote pension credit, local employment partnerships and integrated employment and skills.

The higher cost of video production in 2007 can mainly be attributed to the making of a film to promote the benefits of local employment partnerships to employers. Filming was extensive and included interviews with a wide range of employers from across the country.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost was of calls made to her Department's 0845 telephone number from *(a)* land lines and *(b)* mobile telephone networks in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [312889]

**Jim Knight:** It is not possible to give an average cost of a call to the Department's 0845 numbers.

The cost of calls to the Departments 0845 numbers will vary according to each service provider, who will determine their own costs. BT landlines charge the lowest tariff and 70 per cent. of DWP callers do so from a BT landline. BT provide free 0845 calls if the call is made within the individual caller's call plan.

Cost of calls to 0845 numbers from mobile phones will vary according to which mobile operator a customer uses. Although we can identify if a caller is using a mobile phone, the Department is unable to identify which mobile operator a caller is using.

### Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

**Patrick Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was between the submission of an appeal against the refusal of an application for disability living allowance and the subsequent hearing in the latest period for which figures are available. [314408]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is not available.

### Employment Schemes

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she has taken to ensure that claimants of *(a)* unemployment benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance are able to take up employment opportunities for (i) full-time work and (ii) work for under 30 hours per week. [313388]

**Jim Knight:** Jobseeker's allowance was introduced in October 1996 and replaced unemployment benefit as the benefit for unemployed people.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants must be available for and actively seeking work as a condition of their benefit, and Jobcentre Plus provides a wealth of support to help people back into work, including help with jobsearch techniques, basic skills and work-focussed training.

There are also a series of measures in place to help jobseekers in the transition from benefits into work, whether that work is full or part time.

For example, jobseekers can also claim working tax credits, which provide financial support to people who are working and on a low income. This support aims to boost work incentives by topping up the wages of people on lower pay, according to their family circumstances. This includes providing direct help with the cost of child care for working families.

Jobseekers may also qualify for a Job Grant, a non-taxable, discretionary, work related payment which aims to bridge the gap between a customer's final payment of benefit and first receipt of wages. To qualify for this, a customer must have been in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 26 weeks immediately prior to starting work of at least 16 hours per week. Awards are £100 for single customers or couples without children and £250 for lone parents or couples with children.

In addition, jobseekers can have their housing benefit extended to cover the first four weeks they are in work, providing they have previously been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or other income related benefits for at least 26 weeks immediately before entering work. A similar scheme, with similar rules, exists to support homeowners back into employment. The Mortgage Interest Run-On provides an additional four weeks' payment of mortgage interest costs after a customer enters work.

We know that the vast majority of people are better off in work. However, we understand that some jobseekers still find the transition into work difficult, and in the December White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment", the Government further announced that we will introduce an enhanced Better off in Work Credit that will ensure that everyone who has been unemployed for 26 weeks or more will receive at least £40 a week more income on moving into work. The new credit will be introduced in one region from October 2010 and we expect the credit will be available nationally from January 2011.

In addition, lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance may be eligible for the In Work Credit which is paid at £60 a week in London and £40 a week in other parts of the country. Customers who return to work from incapacity benefits may be eligible for the Return to Work Credit which is paid at £40 a week. Both credits are available to these customers when they start work for 16 hours a week, with payments lasting for 52 weeks.

### Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget of the Ethnic Minority Task Force was in each of the last five years. [313680]

**Jim Knight:** This question falls under my responsibility, as Chair of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force. This Task Force does not have a specific budget and while Secretariat support is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions, this is delivered by the Ethnic Minority Employment policy team.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the Ethnic Minority Task Force has helped into work in each sector of employment since its formation. [313681]

**Jim Knight:** This question falls under my responsibility, as Chair of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force. The Task Force's aim is to close the ethnic minority employment gap, and in pursuing this aim the Task Force seeks to influence cross Government policies, so that issues and barriers which lead to the gap are identified and tackled. It does not deliver employment programmes directly. As such it is not possible to say how many people the Task Force itself has helped into work.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there are in each *(a)* county, *(b)* metropolitan authority, *(c)* London borough and *(d)* unitary authority in England. [314005]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed incapacity benefit in each year since 1997; and how many such claimants *(a)* reached retirement age and *(b)* died in each such year. [315052]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 166W.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the entitlement to employment rights will be of jobseeker's allowance claimants participating in the work for your benefit pilots; and if she will make a statement. [313061]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Work for Your Benefit is a pilot programme primarily for customers who have been unemployed for more than two years. The programme consists of a work experience placement and other training and support which will be tailored to the individual. The programme is designed to help participants gain skills and experience which will be of value to them as they move towards work.

The programme does not provide jobs. It provides unpaid work experience placements and participants will continue to receive jobseeker's allowance. Participants are not employed, and there will be no contract of employment between host organisations and participants.

Safeguards will however, be in place to ensure that Work for Your Benefit participants are properly treated. Participants will have the right to work in a healthy and safe working environment, and of course host organisations and providers will have to comply with all relevant legislation under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Work for Your Benefit participants will not be required to participate for more than 40 hours per week, and some for less than this, if for example they have caring responsibilities or have a health condition. Participants will be able to take time off during the placement, and will be given all appropriate training to allow them to make the most of their placement.

In addition, all suppliers will have in place a complaints mechanism through which customers will be able to raise concerns about their work experience placement, and ultimately can contact Jobcentre Plus if they have concerns over the support they are receiving.

### Pension Credit: Overpayments

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason her Department's estimate of the proportion of pension credit benefit expenditure overpayments rose in each year since 2007; and what steps she plans to take to *(a)* improve levels of accuracy in forecasting such over expenditure and *(b)* reduce the number of overpayments of pension credit. [311022]

**Angela Eagle:** The proportion of Pension Credit benefit expenditure overpayments has fallen since 2006-07 from 5.3 per cent to 5.1 per cent. The available information is provided in the following table.

*Estimated Pension Credit overpayments since 2006-07*

| | *Fraud and Error (%)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 5.3 |
| 2007-08 | 5.1 |
| 2008-09 | 5.1 |

*Note:*
Percentage figures refer to an estimate of the percentage of benefit overpaid during the time period.

The Department does not produce projections for the amount it expects to lose as a result of fraud and error. However, the Department does have a departmental strategic objective to reduce overpayments as a result of fraud, official error and customer error to 1.8 per cent. of total benefit expenditure by March 2011.

We have a comprehensive strategy to reduce fraud and error across the benefits system, including initiatives for pension credit. These include addressing the most common errors through staff training, strengthening the checks that are undertaken before claims are put into payment, and matching our pension credit data against data from other Government and external sources to identify potential overpayments.

### Pensions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to the Exchequer in *(a)* public sector pensions, *(b)* uprating the guaranteed minimum pension of private sector pensions and *(c)* other occupational pension costs of a 2.5 per cent. increase in 2010-11 in (i) additional pension, (ii) increments to basic pension, (iii) increments to additional pension, (iv) increments to graduated retirement benefit, (v) increments to the inheritable lump sum, (vi) contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings, (vii) contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997, (viii) graduated retirement benefit, (ix) increase of long term incapacity for age, (x) basic pension addition at age of 80 years, (xi) increase of long-term incapacity for age and (xii) invalidity allowance (transitional) for state pension recipients. [308334]

**Angela Eagle:** The total cost to the Exchequer in *(a)* public sector pensions, of uprating Additional Pension components by 2.5 per cent. is approximately £0.7 billion in 2010-11. More detailed information is not available.

Parts *(b)* and *(c)* of this question do not result in any costs to the Exchequer.

### Social Security Benefits: Payments

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit payments were delayed in each month of 2009; what the monetary value of such payments was in each such month; and for what reasons a benefit payment may be delayed. [313095]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the number and value of delayed benefit payments is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Delay in making a payment of benefit may be the result of any number of factors including, but not limited to, customers not providing necessary evidence, volumes of work, delays in the banking or postal system, and simple error or oversight. The Department and its Executive agencies, Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, are committed to providing the best possible customer service and do their utmost to ensure that any delays caused by factors within their control are kept to a minimum.

### Unemployment: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps she has taken to reduce unemployment in Leeds West constituency amongst young people since 2001; and if she will make a statement; [306947]

(2) what steps she has taken to reduce levels of long-term unemployment in Leeds West constituency since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [306953]

**Jim Knight:** As part of the Government's commitment to support people into work, £5 billion has been made available across the UK since November 2008 to offer extra support to jobseekers to help them find work at all stages of their claim.

The Department has quadrupled the available funding for the rapid response service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. Also, we launched an enhanced offer to all jobseekers at day one of their claim which includes targeted group sessions in jobsearch techniques, access to local employment partnership vacancies and access to help with the costs of getting back to work through the adviser discretionary fund.

At the six-month point in a claim, all jobseekers now have access to a substantial package of extra support including recruitment subsidies, work-focused training places, volunteering opportunities and support to become self-employed.

In addition, 18-24 year olds in Leeds West who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more have access to the new deal for young people, and customers aged 25 and over who have been unemployed for 18 months continuously or for 18 out of the last 21 months or more have access to the New Deal 25 Plus programme.

The new flexible new deal and supporting interventions, which build on the success of the New Deal programmes, will be introduced in Leeds West from April 2010.

The Government have also targeted significant new resource on young people in recognition of the particular challenges young people face during a recession. These measures are designed to prevent, wherever possible, young people experiencing prolonged spells of unemployment early in their working lives.

On 29 July 2009, the Government launched a campaign called "Backing Young Britain", calling on businesses, charities and government bodies to create more opportunities for young people, such as internships, work experience placements, links to mentors and apprenticeships. Almost 18,000 graduate internships have already become available across the UK and thousands more opportunities will follow early in 2010. Over 470 organisations are supporting the campaign, with numbers growing all the time.

Furthermore, on 25 January 2010, the Government launched the "Young Person's Guarantee", meaning all 18-24 year olds who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months are now guaranteed a job, work placement or work-related skills training.

Leeds is already benefiting from successful future jobs fund bids from Leeds City council and Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Forum Ltd, which will create up to 734 jobs in the Leeds area.

In addition, we are introducing access to a named personal adviser to all young people from day one of their claim. This will be available to all from April.

### Unemployment: North Tyneside

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in North Tyneside whose occupation is registered as electrician or electrical fitter are receiving jobseeker's allowance. [314501]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* As at December 2009, there were 40 people claiming jobseeker's allowance in the North Tyneside parliamentary constituency whose sought occupation was recorded as electrician or electrical fitter.

*Source:*

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure her Department has incurred on advertising the Backing Young Britain campaign in the last 12 months. [314275]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Backing Young Britain is a cross-Government campaign targeted at business, public sector organisations and the voluntary sector. It aims to encourage organisations of all sizes to provide more opportunities for young people aged 16-24.

The advertising costs incurred to date in the last 12 months on Backing Young Britain are £98,000.

### Work Capability Assessment: Complaints

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made to her Department on a work capability assessment since the introduction of the employment and support allowance. [313320]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on the number of complaints received by the Department specifically about the Work Capability Assessment element of Employment and Support Allowance is not available.

In the Quarter September 2009 to November 2009 Atos Healthcare received a total of 702 complaints from Employment Support Allowance claimants who were referred for a medical assessment.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question 300567, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313140]

**Jim Knight:** I replied to the hon. Member's question on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 353-54W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Energy Performance Certificates

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of commercial buildings *(a)* built, *(b)* rented and *(c)* sold without the required energy performance certificate in each local authority area since 1 October 2008; and how many penalties have been issued in respect of each such area in that period. [314783]

**John Healey:** No information is collected centrally about the number of commercial buildings that are sold, rented out or constructed or the number of fixed penalty notices that are issued for failure to provide an energy performance certificate (EPC) in such cases. It is not therefore possible to say how many such buildings were sold, rented out or constructed without an EPC during that period.

### Home Information Packs

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list the members of his Department's working group on condition information in the home buying and selling process; how many times the working group has met to date; and what the timetable is for it to report. [314982]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 240-41W, which dealt with the membership of the Working Group on Condition Information in the Home Buying and Selling Process. The Working Group met six times between March and October 2009. The group has now submitted its final report to the Department and we are looking carefully at the recommendations.

### Homelessness

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of people in each region who are homeless but who are not included in local authority homelessness statistics; and if he will make a statement. [313859]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Beyond the information that CLG collects and publishes on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation, the Department has figures on counts of people found sleeping rough. Rough sleeping street count figures, collected from local authorities, are published at a local, regional and national level. In 1998 there were estimated to be 1,850 rough sleepers in England. Since then good progress has been made in reducing the total number of rough sleepers to 464 in street counts in 2009. The 2009 total street count figures are shown in Table 1.

*Table 1: Total street counts, by region, 2009*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| North East | 5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 34 |
| East Midlands | 29 |
| East of England | 6 |
| London | 15 |
| South East | 31 |
| South West | 265 |
| West Midlands | 34 |
| North West | 45 |
| England | 464 |

The Department also has data on Supporting People (SP) clients whose predominant need for housing related support was associated with homelessness when they first accessed a SP service. There are three primary client group categories whose predominant need is associated with homelessness: 'Single homeless', 'Rough sleeper' and 'Homeless families with support needs'.

Data are collected on primary 'client group' categories every time a client accesses housing related support services funded by the Supporting People programme. Figures for the number of clients accessing a SP service at any point in time are not available, but information by region on the number of clients in these client groups who accessed housing related support services during the period 1st April 2008 to 31 March 2009 are available from the Centre for Housing Research at University of St Andrew's Supporting People client record website:

http://www.spclientrecord.org.uk/

Data are collected on a client group every time they enter a housing related support service, so it could be that clients access different services over the course of a year and appear more than once in the Supporting

People data. We are unable to say how many of these clients may potentially be included in the information on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints have been received by the local government ombudsman on the administration of services for those who are *(a)* intentionally homeless and *(b)* sleeping rough in each of the last three years. [314662]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The number of complaints involving aspects of intentional homelessness received by the local government ombudsman for the last three years is as follows:

| | *Complaints* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 9 |
| 2007-08 | 12 |
| 2008-09 | 7 |

Data on the number of complaints received by the local government ombudsman on rough sleeping is not available.

### Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority: Loans

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority paid in loans to employees in each of the last three years; and how many such loans were made. [315195]

**John Healey:** From 1 December 2008, the Homes and Communities Agency paid out 93 loans totalling £180,429.03. The TSA paid out 68 loans the total of which was £160,927.

As neither agency existed prior to 1 December 2008 no figures are available for the period before that time.

### Housing Corporation and English Partnerships: Redundancy Pay

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* board members and *(b)* directors employed by (i) the Housing Corporation and (ii) English Partnerships received payments due to the closure of the organisations following the coming into effect of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008; how much was paid; and how much each board member received. [315196]

**John Healey:** In respect of the Housing Corporation, no termination payments were made to any of the chief executive, senior managements or board members. Neither were termination payments made to the board members of English Partnerships.

Termination payments were made to the chief executive and two directors of English Partnerships. These were set out in its Financial Statements 2008-09.

### Housing: Construction

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each substantive response to his Department's review into the development on garden land. [314970]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** 127 responses were received from local authorities to the review of evidence into development on garden land. A copy of each response was placed in the Library of the House on 19 January 2010.

### Housing: Parking

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will commission research into the proportion of domestic garages used for *(a)* parking cars and *(b)* storage. [312883]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Local authorities are encouraged by PPS 3 to consider their local circumstances when setting levels of parking for residential development, but it is not a matter for the Government what people choose to keep in their garages.

### Housing: Sales

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of first-time buyers purchased a home at a price of under £250,000 in 2009. [314978]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Data are only available for January to November 2009. In this period, the Council of Mortgage Lenders estimates that there were 171,300 loans to first time buyers in the UK. Of these, CLG estimate that 90 per cent. (154,000) were for properties purchased for £250,000 or less.

### Local Government Finance

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much non-Housing Revenue Account *(a)* debt and *(b)* interest was paid by local authorities in each year since 2000; and how much outstanding debt there was in each local authority on 31 December in each such year. [315352]

**Barbara Follett:** Information on non-Housing Revenue Account debt is not held centrally.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* revenue from business rates was redistributed to each local authority and *(b)* each local authority received in revenue support grant through the formula grant in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of such receipts by each local authority in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [315353]

**Barbara Follett:** The amount of *(a)* redistributed business rates and *(b)* revenue support grant allocated to each authority for each of the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is available from the departmental website.

The allocations for 2007-08 can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0708/grants.xls

The allocations for 2008-09 can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/head0809s.xls

The allocations for 2009-10 can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0910/head0910.xls

The allocations for 2010-11 can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1011/head1011.xls

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been granted under the *(a)* Working Neighbourhoods Fund, *(b)* Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, *(c)* Deprived Area Fund, *(d)* Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, *(e)* New Deal for Communities, *(f)* Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, *(g)* New Communities Fund, *(h)* European Regional Development Fund, *(i)* Inspiring Communities Grant, *(j)* Connecting Communities Programme, *(k)* Single Regeneration Budget and *(l)* Land and Property Programme to each local authority in each year since 2000. [315354]

**Barbara Follett:** The data requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Planning Permission

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons his Department decided not to accept the recommendation of respondees to the consultation on the Draft Regulations on Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) 2010 that decision-makers should have regard to the pre-application consultation and the consultation report. [315091]

**John Healey:** The pre-application consultation report must be submitted to the IPC as part of the application for an order granting development consent. Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 refers. Therefore, the IPC will have the report before them when considering an application.

### Recreation Spaces

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's report of 18 February 2008, on Trees in Towns II, what assessment he has made of the average cost to his Department of planting a tree as part of a municipal tree planting programme; and whether his Department plans to commission follow-up research. [314976]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** "Trees in Towns II" did not assess the cost of planting trees. The planting of trees is a matter for each local and highway authority. There are no plans to commission follow-up research.

### Regional Planning and Development: South East

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on regional planning and development: South East, what the status of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy is; and whether there are plans to *(a)* revise the Strategy and *(b)* undertake further environmental assessments. [315042]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The South East Regional Spatial Strategy, published in May 2009, is part of the development plan under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 with the exception of Policy H2(i) which was quashed by the High Court.

There are a number of outstanding legal challenges to the specific elements of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy which relate to the adequacy of the strategic environmental assessment that was undertaken and we are currently in legal negotiations with those who have challenged it. Pending the conclusion of these negotiations, we will consider the way forward including the strategic environmental assessment.

### Sleeping Rough: Ex-servicemen

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of ex-service personnel in the number of street homeless people in England. [314024]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The annual headline figure for rough sleeping, based on local authority street counts, does not include information such as whether a rough sleeper is a former member of the armed forces. However, there is specific data for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system.

Rough sleeping among ex-armed forces personnel has dropped and earlier surveys found that around a quarter had been in the armed services at some stage and in 2002 this figure was 14 per cent. Better accommodation advice for those leaving the armed forces and closer working between Government and the charitable sector, including provision of supported housing ventures, has helped reduce the numbers. As a result, in 2008-09, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services 5 per cent. of rough sleepers were ex-service personnel.

### Urban Development Corporations

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 14 January 2010 on urban development corporations, whether any changes are to be made to levels of regeneration funding as a consequence of the merger or closure of the Development Corporations; whether he expects any staff to be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the gross monetary value of the savings from such changes. [314993]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In consequence of the outcome of the Quinquennial Review no changes to funding in the current or next financial year are being made, while funding for subsequent years will be decided in the next spending review. We do not expect the urban development corporations to make any redundancies as a result of the review.

All three development corporations are already participating in the Government's operational efficiency programme, which could yield cumulative savings across their operating costs of £8 million in the period to 2013-14. Increased joint working, delivery and shared services with partners in west Northamptonshire should achieve additional cumulative savings of at least £1 million by 2013-14. Further savings will arise in due course from the transfer of Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to the HCA but it is too early to estimate what these will be as it will depend upon when, for example, operating systems can be harmonised.

### Waste Management: Planning Permission

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for waste treatment plants have been granted in each of the last three months. [314368]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The most recent statistics available are for the period July—September 2009. During this time, waste planning authorities granted permission for 89 major and 128 minor waste applications. We do not hold information on the number of permissions granted on a month-by-month basis.

## TREASURY

### Debts: Developing Countries

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts to discuss progress towards reducing the debts of developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [315200]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have regular conversations with their G8 partners on a range of subjects: including development. Good progress is being made to deliver debt relief to the world's poorest countries through the internationally agreed heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative and the multilateral debt relief initiative (MDRI). 35 out of 40 eligible countries are now receiving debt relief worth $117 billion, freeing up resources for poverty reduction. Of these, 28 have completed the HIPC initiative and received irrevocable debt cancellation, including Haiti, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Republic of Congo and Burundi in the past year.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* associated non-departmental public bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he will publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [312112]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury Group and other Chancellor's Departments are committed to seeking year-on-year improvements in their environmental performance. HM Treasury was the first central Government Department to receive the Carbon Trust's 'Carbon Standard' for all operations, including official transport, in March 2009. HM Treasury has recently been rated the best performing department in Whitehall by the independent Sustainable Development Commission.

In 2009 the Chancellor of the Exchequer asked each of his departments to consider what more they would be able to do to achieve the minimum standards proposed by the 10:10 campaign, where possible aiming for a 10 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions in 2010.

Details of performance against a range of environmental indicators, including carbon emissions, are published by the Treasury Group and other Chancellor's departments in their annual reports.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change also publishes progress against carbon reduction targets for all Government Departments on its website at:

www.decc.gov.uk

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs formerly undertaken by staff of his Department have been outsourced to external companies in each of the last five years; and to which companies. [314633]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury has outsourced in total forty-two posts in the last five years. In 2005 three were transferred to Logica CMG for provision of payroll services. In December 2009 thirty-nine posts were transferred to the Fujitsu Group, thirty-six of which had staff in post at the time.

### National Income

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what headline workplace-based gross value was added per head at current basic prices in each NUTS 1 region in each year since 2005; and what the percentage change was from each year to the next. [313759]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning headline workplace-based gross value added per head at current basic prices in each NUTS1 region in each year since 2005; and what the percentage change was from each year to the next (313759).

The latest year for which NUTS1 data are available is 2008. Headline gross value added (GVA) per head figures for each NUTS1 region, calculated on a workplace basis are shown in annex A for the years 2005 to 2008. Data on GVA per head percentage changes for each NUTS1 region can be found in annex B.

*Annex A: GVA per head*

*£ per head*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 14,200 | 14,851 | 15,460 | 15,887 |
| North West | 15,596 | 16,245 | 16,967 | 17,555 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 15,416 | 15,994 | 16,670 | 17,096 |
| East Midlands | 16,158 | 16,868 | 17,614 | 18,041 |
| West Midlands | 15,671 | 16,306 | 17,044 | 17,463 |
| East of England | 17,249 | 18,160 | 19,083 | 19,473 |
| London | 29,846 | 31,674 | 33,694 | 34,786 |
| South East | 19,475 | 20,360 | 21,248 | 21,688 |
| South West | 16,679 | 17,473 | 18,235 | 18,782 |
| Wales | 13,717 | 14,228 | 14,853 | 15,237 |
| Scotland | 17,262 | 18,266 | 19,267 | 20,086 |
| Northern Ireland | 14,547 | 15,200 | 15,854 | 16,188 |
| | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 18,537 | 19,495 | 20,430 | 21,147 |
| United Kingdom less extra-regio | 18,122 | 19,011 | 19,951 | 20,520 |

*Source:*
Table 1.1, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS1.xls

*Annex B: Percentage changes in GVA per head*

*Percentage*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 4.6 | 4.1 | 2.8 |
| North West | 4.2 | 4.4 | 3.5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 3.7 | 4.2 | 2.6 |
| East Midlands | 4.4 | 4.4 | 2.4 |
| West Midlands | 4.1 | 4.5 | 2.5 |
| East of England | 5.3 | 5.1 | 2.0 |
| London | 6.1 | 6.4 | 3.2 |
| South East | 4.5 | 4.4 | 2.1 |
| South West | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.0 |
| Wales | 3.7 | 4.4 | 2.6 |
| Scotland | 5.8 | 5.5 | 4.3 |
| Northern Ireland | 4.5 | 4.3 | 2.1 |
| | | | |
| United Kingdom | 5.2 | 4.8 | 3.5 |
| United Kingdom less extra-regio | 4.9 | 4.9 | 2.9 |

*Source:*
Table 1.1, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS1.xls

## National Insurance Contributions: Young People

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much national insurance was paid by 16 and 17 year-olds resident in Scotland between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009; and what percentage of national insurance raised in Scotland this represents. [315044]

**Mr. Timms:** The latest available national insurance contribution data are for 2007-08. Employee and employer class 1 contributions for 16 and 17-year-olds in Scotland between 6 April 2007 and 5 April 2008 are estimated to be around £5 million, estimates for class 2, 3 and 4 are not available.

The total national insurance contributed by Scotland is estimated to be around £7.7 billion.

## Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what types of property are on the National Rating List for business rates; and what criteria are used in their designation. [315037]

**Ian Pearson:** The Central Rating Lists contain network properties such as the gas networks and the water supply companies, these hereditaments cover large areas and numerous administrative boundaries.

Under s.53 Local Government Finance Act 1988 the Secretary of State and National Assembly for Wales designate which persons and what types of their property shall appear in the Central Lists. They will have regard to all relevant matters which may include the nature, use, size and geographical spread of the property when considering whether to designate a person on the central rating list.

## Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct the Chief Executive of the Valuation Office Agency to meet representatives of the petrol retail industry to discuss the 2010 rating revaluation. [313370]

**Ian Pearson:** Senior officials of the Valuation Office Agency have already held a number of meetings with representatives of the petrol retail industry to discuss the approach to the 2010 rating revaluation and the process of dialogue is continuing.

## Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hereditaments there are on the England 2010 rating list *(a)* in London with a rateable value below (i) £21,500, (ii) £36,000 and (iii) £43,000 and *(b)* outside London with a rateable value below (A) £15,000, (B) £25,000 and (C) £30,000. [314208]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The following data are as at 2 November 2009 and extracted from the information published by the Valuation Office Agency on 18 December 2009.

| *Rateable value* | *Rounded to hundreds* |
|---|---|
| *London* | |
| Below £21,500 | 183,400 |
| Between £21,500 and £35,999 | 31,900 |
| Between £36,000 and £42,999 | 8,700 |
| | |
| *England (ex. London)* | |
| Below £15,000 | 1,015,400 |
| Between £15,000 and £24,999 | 149,400 |
| Between £25,000 and £29,999 | 41,800 |

## Northern Ireland

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of hours *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessor spent in Northern Ireland on official visits since 1997. [314559]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers' official duties entail visits throughout the United Kingdom.

## PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sources of individual income are subject to withholding requirements. [315015]

**Mr. Timms:** The following sources of income may be subject to withholding and the withheld amount may be claimed by an individual in their self-assessment tax return as an off-set against their tax bill.

Investment income (interest from banks, building societies, unit trusts, securities etc. and dividends);

Certain state benefits (state pension lump sums and incapacity benefit);

Occupational pensions and retirement annuities;

Some life insurance policy gains;

Income from share schemes;

Employment income (including some lump sums and compensation payments);

Certain types of trading income, (including payments under the Construction Industry Scheme);

Property income (in some circumstances); and

Income from trusts, estates and income chargeable on settlers.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 9 of HM Revenue and Customs Resource Accounts 2008-09, HC (2008-09) 464, for what reason 4.5 million Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) cases will require clerical intervention under the National Insurance and PAYE Service's new PAYE system. [315016]

**Mr. Timms:** The National Insurance and PAYE Service brings together all of an individual's PAYE details (including employments, pensions and tax deducted) into one single record and currently holds approximately 44 million individual customer records. Clerical action is required by HM Revenue and Customs staff when expected details of pay and tax (from form P14) and/or expenses and benefits (from form P11d) have not been received by an employer or pension provider.

## Smuggling: Fuel Oil

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many vehicles were seized in Northern Ireland consequent on their use for cross-border fuel smuggling in each of the last three years; what the monetary value was of the fuel seized from those vehicles; how many arrests were made in connection with those seizures; and how many convictions there were as a result of those arrests. [314485]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The specific information as requested is not available. The following numbers of vehicles were seized in Northern Ireland for all types of hydrocarbon oil offences; however, it is not possible to identify the number of seizures related to cross-border smuggling:

| | *Vehicles seized* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 482 |
| 2007-08 | 844 |
| 2006-07 | 1,199 |

The following quantities of fuel were seized in Northern Ireland, this covers all types of fuel therefore it is not possible to place a monetary value on the quantity of fuel seized:

| | *Million litres* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 1.09 |
| 2007-08 | 0.82 |
| 2006-07 | 0.84 |

Details of the numbers of arrests relating to these seizures is not available. The number of convictions in Northern Ireland for all types of hydrocarbon oils offences are as follows :

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 10 |
| 2007-08 | 3 |
| 2006-07 | 4 |

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of detections of fuel smuggling in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* England and Wales were made by (i) the police and (ii) HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years; [314538]

(2) how many vehicles in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* England and Wales were found to be running on red diesel illegally in each of the last three years. [314573]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not keep a central record of fuel smuggling detections made by other agencies and therefore cannot estimate the percentage of detections made by the police.

The numbers of vehicles containing illicit fuels that were detected in the last three years HMRC are shown in the following table:

| | *Northern Ireland* | *England and Wales* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,190 | 2,683 |
| 2007-08 | 1,158 | 2,758 |
| 2008-09 | 485 | 3,117 |

These figures include those vehicles found to be running illegally on red diesel, but HMRC does not maintain any central record of detections solely of red diesel.

## Tax Allowances: Pensions

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employees likely to be affected by the changes to tax relief on pension contributions to take effect in 2011; and whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on the competitiveness of UK businesses of the implementation of those proposals; [314045]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* number of people affected by the changes to tax relief on pension contributions to take effect in 2011 likely to

remain in company pension schemes and *(b)* likely effects on company pension provision of the implementation of those proposals; [314047]

(3) what the marginal tax rate would be on the pensions savings of those affected by the changes to tax relief on pension contributions to take effect in 2011; [314048]

(4) whether his Department holds information for benchmarking purposes on the tax arrangements of other countries in respect of company pension contributions. [314049]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the consultation document 'Implementing the restriction of pensions tax relief' which was published on 9 December 2009 and which contains the information for which he has asked. A copy of the consultation document can be found on the HMT website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr09_consult_pensions.pdf

Table 1 of the Impact Assessment in the document (Annex E) sets out the total number of people likely to be affected by the changes and likely to remain in company pension schemes.

### Taxation: Aviation

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Government made of using maximum take-off weight as a basis for the proposed per plane tax which was rejected in November 2008. [313004]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government considered the use of maximum take-off weight as part of the consultation to reform air passenger duty in January 2008, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_aviation310108.pdf

The Government's response to the consultation, published in November 2008, is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_aviationduty_395.pdf

### Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 765W, on furnished holiday lettings, if he will make an estimate of the number of furnished holiday lettings owned by *(a)* UK residents and *(b)* residents of other EU member states in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England. [312342]

**Mr. Timms:** There are an estimated 75,000 furnished holiday lettings properties. Of these, around 62,000 are owned by individuals with a correspondence address in England and around 6,000 are owned by individuals in Yorkshire and Humberside. HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) administrative systems do not have information on the location of the properties themselves. Non-UK residents are not eligible to claim tax relief under the furnished holiday lettings rules.

### VAT: Alcoholic Drinks

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has issued rebates of value added tax to supermarkets in relation to loss-leading marketing promotions of alcohol products in the last five years. [312717]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for the collection and management of value added tax.

Supermarkets are subject to the same VAT rules as other businesses. They are required to account for VAT on payments received for their positive-rated sales, including alcohol products, and are able to recover VAT paid on purchases for their business, including products for re-sale.

The VAT returns rendered to HMRC by supermarkets and other businesses do not distinguish payments or recovery of VAT on alcohol products from those on other sales.

### VAT: Memorials

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the amount of value added tax on memorials to children *(a)* levied in each of the last five financial years and *(b)* expected to be levied in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [314702]

(2) if he will make it his policy not to levy value added tax on the purchase and erection of memorials for children; and if he will make a statement. [314703]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT collected from individual categories of goods and services.

Under our agreements with our European partners, we are not able to extend our existing zero rates or introduce new exemptions from VAT.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Advertising

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each year since it was established; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each such year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [309903]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. For the financial year 2007-08 there was no expenditure on advertising. In 2008-09 the GEO spent £26,776.43 on advertising. All of this was related to print and associated on-line newspaper advertising. In 2009-10 to-date GEO has spent £63,345 on advertising all of which was print related and mainly covered recruitment to the Boards of GEO's NDPBs. None of the detailed expenditure was managed by the Central Office of Information.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315140]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office continues to meet its target of paying over 90 per cent. of all trade creditors including small and medium-sized enterprises within 10-working days of receipt of a valid invoice.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each year since its inception. [312514]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on new furnishings, works of art or new vehicles.

### Equality Bill 2008-09: Equality Bill 2009-10

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether guidance has been prepared for those organisations which would have duties under the provisions proposed in the Equality Bill. [315110]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Clear, practical guidance on the Equality Bill will help people to understand their rights and responsibilities under the Bill. Better understanding should improve compliance and ensure people can assert their rights.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has statutory responsibility to produce guidance on all the Equality Bill provisions except the socio-economic duty.

The Commission published draft guidance on the employment provisions in the Bill for public consultation on 27 January 2010 and will be publishing further draft guidance for consultation shortly.

The Government will issue guidance for public bodies on the socio-economic duty later this year. It will draw on the principles set out in the guide to the duty we published on 8 January, and will be the subject of consultation with relevant public bodies.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### 1 Carlton Gardens

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there are plans to sell 1 Carlton Gardens. [313783]

**Chris Bryant:** No.

### Afghanistan: Corruption

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of Afghanistan's GDP attributable to bribery; what steps his Department is taking to counter bribery in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [313156]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government made no such estimation. However, Afghanistan ranks second to last on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (before Somalia) and nearly one in every five Afghans experience corruption when trying to access public health care and state electricity supply. Integrity Watch Afghanistan estimate that in some provinces, households on average pay $100 per year in bribes to public officials. This is a lot of money for most households in a country where the average annual income for an Afghan is US$354 and huge inequalities exist between rich and poor.

At the London Conference on Afghanistan on 28 January 2010 the Government of Afghanistan committed to:

strengthen the independent High Office of Oversight to investigate and sanction corrupt officials;

introduce an independent, merit-based civil service appointment and vetting process;

bring their laws in line with the UN Convention Against Corruption; and

invite a group of Afghan and international experts to develop clear benchmarks for progress and regularly report against these benchmarks.

The International Community in return promised to support them in that task.

Building Afghan institutions that are durable, capable and accountable to their people is key to success in Afghanistan and a key element of the UK mission in Afghanistan. Tackling corruption at all levels is essential to achieving this. The UK has set up a Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF) of experts across the Government to support the Afghan Government's efforts to tackle corruption. The MATF is focused on prevention efforts such as improving public financial management, building Afghan law enforcement so that impunity can end, the strengthening of accountability bodies and opportunities for citizens to hold their government to account.

### Belarus: Human Rights

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the human rights situation and *(b)* progress on democratic reform in Belarus; and if he will make a statement. [315198]

**Chris Bryant:** We have significant concerns about human rights in Belarus which we set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual Human Rights Report. The Belarusian authorities continue to harass civil society, non-governmental organisations, religious organisations and the independent media. Belarus is the only European country to continue to use the death penalty. However, there have been some small but welcome improvements in the past two years. In particular, we welcome the decision to allow a number of independent newspapers access to state distribution, and to allow European Radio for Belarus to open a correspondents' office for a year. We also welcome the engagement by the Belarusian authorities in the EU's Eastern Partnership, and the EU-Belarus Human Rights Dialogue launched in 2009.

Progress on democratic reform has also been slow. Belarus has responded to some of the recommendations made by the OSCE/ODIHR Election Monitoring Mission in 2008. This is a positive step, though we are disappointed that an important change—the right of observers to view the ballot papers as they are counted—was not included in the proposed reforms. The conduct of local elections in April 2010 will be an important test of the willingness of the Belarusian authorities to meet international election standards.

### Departmental Official Engagements

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to meet the US ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues during her visit to the UK in February. [315193]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK remains fully committed to the protection and promotion of all human rights, including the rights of women. We work closely with international partners to promote gender equality and women's rights through international organisations; and through our promotion of women's rights bilaterally.

We are keen to work closely with ambassador Verveer on issues affecting women globally. A decision on who will meet her will be made subject to confirmation of her final travel programme.

### Uzbekistan: Cotton

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to prevent imports of *(a)* cotton and *(b)* clothing which has been produced by child labour in Uzbekistan; and if he will make a statement. [315197]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK remains concerned about reports of the use of child labour in the cotton sector in Uzbekistan. The UK has raised its concerns with the Uzbek Government and through the EU. Our embassy in Tashkent also remains in regular contact with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the issue. In order to support the establishment of stronger child labour monitoring systems in Uzbekistan our embassy is funding a project that has delivered informal education and vocational training to children most at risk of child labour in thirteen rural areas.

The EU welcomed Uzbekistan's signing of the International Labour Organisation Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the Minimum Age of Employment in 2008 and 2009 respectively. A National Action Plan was launched in 2008 to ensure implementation of these conventions. We continue to urge Uzbekistan to implement effectively its international obligations in this regard.

The EU can temporarily withdraw trade preferences provided to developing countries under its Generalised System of Preferences, if there is sufficient evidence of labour rights violations. However, the EU and UK believe the best way to improve labour standards is for governments to work with workers' and employers' groups to improve their ability to comply with, and enforce, labour laws.

The UK Government continue to call on businesses to look at their supply chains and take appropriate action if they find evidence that goods have been produced using child labour.

There is no legal requirement for goods to bear marks indicating their origin. As such it would be difficult for the Government to establish a blanket ban on imports of Uzbek cotton and clothing. Similarly, products manufactured using Uzbek cotton in a third country would legitimately bear the country of manufacture as the country of origin.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Climate Change: Finance

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the UK's fast-start financing for climate change adaptation will be drawn from his Department's existing budgets. [314906]

**Mr. Thomas:** In 2010-11, around 60-65 per cent. of the UK's fast-start financing for adaptation will come from The Department for International Development's (DFID's) budget.

The departmental budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13 have not yet been decided.

The UK remains committed to providing additional post 2012 financing on top of the 0.7 per cent. official development assistance (ODA) commitment and to limiting the share of our ODA for climate change to no more than 10 per cent.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by his Department to pay invoices from *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* all creditors in the last 12 months. [315128]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments will aim to pay invoices within ten days. The Department for International Development (DFID) commenced reporting of ten day payment performance in November 2008. In December 2009 DFID reported 96.03 per cent. of invoices were paid within ten days. DFID does not separately capture payment information by small or medium-sized enterprises.

### Haiti: Earthquakes

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to ensure that cholera does not break out in camps for displaced persons in Haiti. [315030]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Shortly after the earthquake struck on 12 January, the Department for International Development (DFID) announced £300,000 in funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for disease surveillance to help prevent epidemics.

Despite some increase in diarrhoea, tetanus and contagious diseases, comprehensive surveillance has not detected any major signs so far.

Our field team reports that co-ordination of the water and sanitation relief efforts continue to improve despite the scope and complexity of this response. To strengthen co-ordination, we have given £1 million to the UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for co-ordination. This funding is helping to strengthen the efforts of implementing partners on the ground to address sanitation issues and reduce the risk of diseases such as cholera.

### Sub-Saharan Africa: Aids

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent discussions he has had with representatives of governments of sub-Saharan African countries about policy to tackle Aids; and if he will make a statement. [315201]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provides support to the following countries in sub-Saharan Africa on developing and implementing policies to tackle AIDS: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

DFID officials, based in the UK and oversees, are in regular contact with representatives of governments in these countries regarding HIV/AIDS policy.

There have not been recent discussions between DFID Ministers and representatives of governments of sub-Saharan African countries specifically regarding policies to tackle AIDS. However, DFID Ministers have had frequent discussions with such government representatives on policies which have an impact on AIDS.

Globally, the UK provides the second largest bilateral contribution to tackle AIDS. In our AIDS Strategy, launched in 2008, we committed to spending £6 billion on health systems and services up to 2015. We also pledged £1 billion to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2015 and over £200 million to support social protection programmes.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Civil Nuclear Constabulary

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the regulatory regime for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. [314535]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Civil Nuclear Constabulary forms a key part of the security arrangements for the UK's civil nuclear industry which are required to be in place under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 as amended, by the independent security regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS).

Governance of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary is carried out by the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, a non-departmental public body for which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change is responsible.

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary is inspected and supported by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change is responsible to Parliament for security in the civil nuclear industry and reviews from time to time the overall arrangements to ensure these are robust and appropriate.

### Climate Change: International Co-operation

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take in co-operation with its international counterparts to take forward the provisions of the treaty signed in Copenhagen on Climate Change. [314557]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Copenhagen Accord agreed in December 2009 does not have the legal status of a treaty, but includes a number of commitments made by the countries which agreed to it. The UK Government have been working through both bilateral and multilateral channels (including our FCO posts and other countries) to encourage others to associate themselves with the Copenhagen Accord and support its implementation. We have also been encouraging others to put forward ambitious mitigation commitments and actions in the Annex to the Accord. Initial assessments show that most of the major countries have associated themselves with the Accord and put forward mitigation commitments. A definitive list will soon be available on the UNFCCC website.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in fuel poverty as a result of the costs arising from heating properties to the temperature required to manage disability and related long-term medical conditions. [314576]

**Mr. Kidney:** It is not possible to say how many people were fuel poor solely due to the cost of heating required to manage a disability or medical condition.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of fuel poverty in Torbay constituency. [314608]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for national programmes aimed at reducing fuel poverty. The combination of Warm Front, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP), Decent Homes and local programmes delivered through local government, partnerships, energy suppliers, eaga and NEA (such as Warm Zones and CEEF) are all important in tackling fuel poverty across regions of England.

The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty and up to 28 January 2010 has delivered energy efficiency measures to 5,781 households in Torbay constituency since the year 2000. Additionally, 282 benefit entitlement checks have been undertaken between 2003 and the end of November 2009, identifying an average weekly increase in income of £26.97 for those entitled to additional benefits.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) requires energy suppliers to meet at least 40 per cent. of their obligation by promoting and installing measures in the homes of a priority group of vulnerable consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or people aged over 70 years. Measures are only reported at GB level and details at constituency level are not available.

### Fuel Poverty: Ashford

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of fuel poverty among the residents of Ashford constituency. [313519]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for national programmes aimed at reducing fuel poverty. The combination of Warm Front, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP), Decent Homes and local programmes delivered through local government, partnerships, energy suppliers, eaga and NEA (such as Warm Zones and CEEF) are all important in tackling fuel poverty across regions of England.

The Warm Front scheme is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty and up to 24 January 2010 has delivered energy efficiency measures to 1,904 households in Ashford constituency since the year 2000. Additionally, over 310 benefit entitlement checks have been undertaken since June 2003, identifying an average weekly increase in income of £27.84 for those entitled to additional benefits.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) requires energy suppliers to meet at least 40 per cent. of their obligation by promoting and installing measures in the homes of a priority group of vulnerable consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or people aged over 70 years. Measures are only reported at GB level and details at constituency level are not available.

### Radioactive Materials: Waste Management

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether substitution of some UK-origin high level radioactive waste for intermediate level waste was applied under the repatriation agreement covering the long-term management of radioactive waste arising from reprocessing of imported foreign origin spent fuel in the shipment of radioactive waste from Sellafield to Japan sent on 20 January 2009; how much nuclear waste was in the shipment; how much the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has spent on supporting this shipment; and whether an armed escort vessel is accompanying the shipment. [313747]

**Mr. Kidney:** Over the programme to return highly active waste (HAW) arising from reprocessing of overseas spent fuel, the return of substituted HAW will take place. The details of the status of individual customers' HAW returns is a commercial matter between the parties involved.

The first shipment consists of 28 HLW canisters in one transport flask, with each canister (vitrified waste and stainless steel) weighing up to 550kg.

The NDA's expenditure in supporting this shipment is customer funded.

In accordance with national and international regulations, the vessel will not be armed nor have an armed escort. The shipment has appropriate levels of security protection in accordance with the nuclear industry security regulations. These arrangements comply with the requirements of the UK regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security.

### Warm Front Scheme: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Torbay constituency received assistance under the Warm Front scheme in 2008-09. [314623]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's main scheme for tacking fuel poverty across England. In 2008-09 the Warm Front Scheme assisted 656 households in the Torbay constituency.

### Wind Power

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what generating capacity of what types is planned to be built to provide back-up to support the nine zone Round 3 offshore wind generating turbines; and at what cost; [311089]

(2) what income is to be guaranteed to generating plants built as back-up to the nine zone Round 3 offshore wind generating turbines when they are *(a)* not generating and *(b)* operating at low capacity. [3110[illegible]]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government set out in the 2009 call for evidence "Delivering Secure Low Carbon Electricity" their assessment of the need for flexible power stations to provide back-up for periods when wind output is low, and invited responses on this assessment and on options for increasing electricity supply and demand flexibility. These responses will be considered as part of the energy markets assessment work announced in the pre-Budget report.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of Round 3 offshore wind generating platforms will be constructed in the UK. [311091]

**Mr. Kidney:** Offshore wind turbines consist of a wide range of components, including towers, blades, castings and forgings, nacelles, gearboxes and bearings, undersea cable, foundations, electrical and control components, that are likely to be sourced from a broad supply chain. The offshore wind projects under Round 3 are still in development and it is not yet known what percentage of these components will be sourced or assembled in the UK.

In order to maximise the business for UK companies and new green jobs, the Government will work with developers and The Crown Estate to support the growing offshore wind industry and help remove barriers to rapid deployment. This will include events around the country organised by The Crown Estate that bring together developers and UK businesses. Government are also supporting the next generation technologies that this scale of deployment will need, through a package of support to ensure the UK benefits from this innovative market.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in which country each company is based which will *(a)* install and *(b)* run the generating platforms in each zone of Round 3 offshore wind development. [311093]

**Mr. Kidney:** Each of the Partner companies that is party to a Zone Development Agreement (ZDA) is registered in England and Wales. For Zones 1 (Moray Firth), Zone 2 (Firth of Forth) and 5 (Norfolk Bank), the main offices of the Partner will be in Scotland. For all other zones, the main offices of the Partner will be in England.

The ZDA grants exclusive rights to develop wind power within the zone, which is effectively the right to seek all the necessary consents for the wind farms. Each wind farm will be developed and owned by a new Project Company, who will hold the Lease from The Crown Estate. Each new Project Company must be registered in England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, and will initially be owned by the Partner.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from what source the nine Round 3 offshore wind developments will be funded. [311094]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government are working hard to provide a positive policy framework to facilitate the UK offshore wind industry. Renewable electricity generated by wind will continue to receive support through the Renewables Obligation, which has recently been extended to 2037 to ensure Round 3 developers investing up to 2020 can do so with confidence.

Within this context, the source of funding and investment needed for the construction and operation of any individual Round 3 offshore wind farms is for the successful developers to source and provide.

### Wind Power: Electricity Generation

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the amount of electricity generated by onshore wind farms in each of the last two months. [310919]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department collects wind data on a monthly basis. These data are published two months in arrears, so the latest data available are for October 2009. Available data for the last 12 months are given in the table.

Monthly data are only collected from major power producers (MPPs) and it is not possible to separate onshore and offshore wind generation. We collect more detailed data on an annual basis which cover both MPPs and smaller generators with an onshore/offshore split. In 2008 onshore wind farms generated 5,792GWh and offshore 1,305GWh. Equivalent data for 2009 will be available on 29 July 2010.

*Monthly wind generation*

| | *GWh* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| November | 598.3 |
| December | 528.5 |
| *2009* | |
| January | 701.7 |
| February | 464.3 |
| March | 611.3 |
| April | 439.9 |
| May | 573.2 |
| June | 343.3 |
| July | 488.8 |
| August | 516.8 |
| September | 502.9 |
| October | 489.4 |

### Wind Power: Noise

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the standards in respect of noise from wind turbines contained in the document ETSU-R-97 for the purposes of further limiting the permitted level of noise. [314413]

**Mr. Kidney:** We consider that ETSU-R-97 is fit for purpose, and that a review is not justified at this time.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has commissioned recent research on a potential link between spending on community contraception services and the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged between 15 and 44 years; how much each primary care trust spent on community contraception services in the last 12 months; what the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged between 15 and 44 years was in each primary care trust in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [313659]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department has not commissioned any research on the potential link between spending on community contraceptive services and abortion rates. However, the Government's significant additional funding over the past two years to improve women's access to contraception has contributed to a decrease in abortion rates: the abortion rate for women resident in England and Wales fell by 1.7 per cent. between 2007 and 2008 and by a further 4.6 per cent. in the first six months of 2009.

Information on spending on community contraceptive services by primary care trust (PCT) is not available centrally.

Information on the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged between 15 and 44 years by PCT for each month in 2008 has been placed in the Library. The 2009 annual abortion data will be published on 25 May 2010.

### Blood: Donors

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs, whether his Department has made a decision on the proposed introduction of the P-Capt filter into paediatrics. [314515]

**Gillian Merron:** This advice was received by the Department following the October 2009 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs. The Department is currently carrying out an assessment of the potential impact of implementation of this advice on the national health service.

### CJD

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of risk of contracting variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease through podiatric procedures; and whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* merits and *(b)* cost of implementing measures to mitigate that risk; [314638]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of risk of contracting variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease through brain surgery procedures; and whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* merits and *(b)* cost of implementing measures to mitigate that risk; [314643]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of risk of contracting variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease through ophthalmological procedures; and whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* merits and *(b)* cost of implementing measures to mitigate that risk. [314644]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department takes advice from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) on the variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) risk associated with different tissues and different surgical procedures, and takes a precautionary approach to handling such risks. ACDP's advice ranks brain and rear of eye (contacted in some ophthalmic surgery) tissues, and surgery on these tissues, as at high level of potential risk and has published guidance on measures to reduce the risks. All ACDP's advice is available at "Guidance from the ACDP TSE Working Group":

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACDP/TSEguidance/index.htm

The Department's 2001 risk assessment for transmission of vCJD via surgical instruments is published at "Risk assessment for transmission of vCJD via surgical instruments: a modelling approach and numerical scenarios:"

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4075387

A 2005 review of this work, assessing the risk of vCJD transmission via surgery: an interim review, is published at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4113541

Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

There has been no specific assessment of the level of risk of contracting vCJD through podiatric procedures. ACDP considers these procedures as low risk on the basis of tissue infectivity and therefore no specific measures are required. As for all surgery high standards of instrument decontamination should be maintained.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313240]

**Phil Hope:** The Department does not formally have staff in transition. Where staff are displaced from their current post, their redeployment is managed through a priority posting pool. On 1 January 2010 there were 13 displaced staff in the pool. This number includes displaced staff across all grades.

The Department does not record information about how long each individual remains in the pool, but most do secure a permanent post within six months.

Over the last five years, a small number of staff have left the Department under compulsory redundancy terms, following a period of redeployment. These are shown in the following table:

| | Number of compulsory redundancies |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 8 |
| 2006-07 | 8 |
| 2007-08 | 10 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |
| 2009-10[1] | 1 |

[1] Up to December 2009

The core Department's records do not show how long each of these staff were displaced before leaving the Department.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) reports that no staff were "in transition" over the last five years.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) has been subject to a significant change programme as the functions of the agency are in the process of being transferred to other organisations. The closure of PASA is being effected over the 2009-10 financial year. No other data is available from PASA for the previous five years. In 2009-10 to date the number of staff initially placed at risk, was 236. Of these 108 were made compulsorily redundant the remainder have been redeployed or are currently being redeployed. Average period between notification and exit of those PASA staff was four months. The total salary costs of PASA staff in transition was £14,998,475 and the overall proportion of employees in transition for more than six months was 22 per cent.

### Health Services: Voluntary Work

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to the Opportunities for Volunteering scheme in each of the last five financial years; and how much funding he plans to allocate to the health and social care volunteering fund in the next five financial years. [314513]

**Phil Hope:** Over the next three years, the existing OFV scheme will be wound-down concurrently as the funding to the new volunteering fund is correspondingly increased. The total budget available for volunteering will remain the same subject to the outcome of the next spending review. Allocations to the OFV scheme will continue through 2010-11 and 2011-12 but there will be a natural tapering of these as there will be no further OFV grants awarded.

Funding allocated to Opportunities for Volunteering (OFV) in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 6,807,823 |
| 2008-09 | 6,746,000 |
| 2007-08 | 6,698,000 |
| 2006-07 | 6,684,000 |
| 2005-06 | 6,883,000 |

It is not possible to provide definitive information on the next five years' allocation of funding to the Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund as budgets for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 will be subject to the outcome of the next spending review. However, the contract for the Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund has been awarded for three years starting in 2009-10, with funding estimated in the contract terms as follows:

| *Financial Year* | *Allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 273,177 |
| 2010-11 | 2,493,885 |
| 2011-12 | 3,834,272 |

### Home Care Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W, on social services, whether the figures given in table 2 of the Personal Care at Home Bill impact assessment for additional costs relate to millions of pounds. [314570]

**Phil Hope:** The additional cost figures in table 2 of the Personal Care at Home Bill impact assessment are shown in millions of pounds. This is labelled in the amended version of the impact assessment, which was published on 11 January 2010. A copy has already been placed in Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology was used to calculate the costs in *(a)* Annex B of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill, *(b)* table 13 of the PSSRU discussion paper 2644 and *(c)* table 35e of his Department's memorandum contained in HC 269-i. [314640]

**Phil Hope:** The model referred to in paragraphs 5.12, 5.13 and Annex B of the impact assessment is still under development. For this reason, its output has not been incorporated into any of the figures reported in the impact assessment. The model will continue to be updated and refined as more information becomes available.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) has constructed a dynamic microsimulation model to produce estimates for the Green and White Papers of the costs and other impacts of reforms to the funding system for care and support for older people. The model consists of data on almost 30,000 older people in waves 3 to 15 of the British Household Panel Survey. The data include information on each person's age, gender, household composition, disability (activities of daily living), income, savings, receipt of informal care and other characteristics.

Table 13 of PSSRU discussion paper 2644 sets out the unit costs of residential care and community care that are used in the modelling. These are derived from data provided by local authorities via the Personal Social Services (PSS) EX1 return. They are assumed to increase by 2 per cent. per year in real terms, in line with expected rises in real earnings.

The NHS Information Centre provides the information for part *(c)* Table 35e as a response to a Health Select Committee Question. This table contains the unit costs for the hourly rate for home care provided or commissioned by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) to adults (aged 18 and over).

The unit cost of services provided or commissioned by CASSRs to adults is collected via the PSS EX1 return. The PSS EX1 return collects both financial and activity information and has been the responsibility of the NHS Information Centre since April 2005. Prior to this date data were collected by the Department.

The unit costs are average costs and are calculated using gross total cost for home care (i.e. including capital charges and before deducting client contributions) divided by the total number of home help/care contact hours for all adults (aged 18 and over) during a sample week, multiplied by 52.

The activity figures for clients receiving home care are taken from a survey in a typical week in September each year. The figures are for services provided or commissioned by a local authority. This will exclude private arrangements by an individual.

In 2007-08 a change has been made to the definition of capital charges to bring the PSS EX1 data in line with the 2006 local authority Accounting Statement of Recommended Practice. This means that total cost cannot be compared historically.

A new column was added to the PSS EX1 return in 2007-08 to record grants to voluntary organisations against the appropriate service line to allow more meaningful unit costs for provision by others to be calculated. Grants are now excluded from the unit cost expenditure as only activity relating to the CASSR care plan can be recorded and used in the unit cost calculation. This change combined with the change to the definition of capital charges which applies to both own provision and provision by others means that the unit costs for 2007-08 cannot be compared with previous years.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology was used to calculate the number of critical care users *(a)* in table 10 of the

PSSRU discussion paper 2644 and *(b)* table 2 of the impact assessment for the Personal Care at Home Bill. [314641]

**Phil Hope:** The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) has constructed a dynamic microsimulation model to produce estimates for the Green and White Papers of the costs and other impacts of reforms to the funding system for care and support for older people. The model consists of data on almost 30,000 older people in waves 3 to 15 of the British Household Panel Survey. The data include information on each person's age, gender, household composition, disability (affecting activities of daily living (ADLs)), income, savings, receipt of informal care and other characteristics. The modelling assumes that disability rates (by age and gender) remain constant over time.

Each disabled person in the model is assigned:

informal care, which is imputed on the basis of disability and living alone;

Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) guidance category, which is imputed on the basis of disability and other factors; and

a normative care package, assigned on the basis of their needs (disability and household composition).

Table 10 of PSSRU discussion paper 2644 sets out the numbers of older people in the model that fall into each level of need, as defined in FACS, based on their severity of impairment, before any consideration of their informal care situation. Table 12 sets out similar information after consideration of informal care.

The starting point for the estimates of service users who are defined as critical under FACS reporting difficulty with four or more ADLs shown in table 2 of the Impact Assessment is an estimate of the number of FACS critical users at home taken from PSSRU's microsimulation model for older people. This initial estimate differs from the FACS critical volume figure in table 10 of the PSSRU discussion paper 2644 in two important regards. First, the figures in the discussion paper relate to those in both residential and domiciliary settings, whereas what is important for the purpose of the Impact Assessment is the number of those living at home. In practice, almost all those in a residential care setting are likely to have critical needs. And secondly, the figures in the discussion paper are estimated before informal care considerations. Since receipt or not of informal care is part of the assessment of Fair Access to Care, it is an important consideration in determining the number of people deemed to be FACS critical.

The next step is to estimate the number of FACS critical individuals reporting difficulty with four or more ADLs. This is done using the information in table 1 of the Impact Assessment, and is explained in detail in the responses I gave to him on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 762-3W.

## Hospital Beds: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospital beds there were per head of population in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority area, *(b)* the East of England strategic health authority area, *(c)* the former Suffolk west primary care trust area and *(d)* Suffolk primary care trust area in each relevant year since 1997. [314886]

**Phil Hope:** Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the average daily number of available acute beds per 100,000 population, for the period 2002-03 to 2008-09 for the former Norfolk Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA), the East of England SHA which was created on 1 October 2006, following the merger of three previous SHA (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA, Essex SHA and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA), the former Suffolk West PCT and Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT).

| | *Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA* | *East of England SHA* | *Suffolk West PCT* [3] | *Suffolk PCT* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 213.3 | n/a | 2.8 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 218.7 | n/a | [1] | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 211.5 | n/a | [1] | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 198.0 | n/a | [1] | n/a |
| 2006-07 | n/a | 154.4 | n/a | [1] |
| 2007-08 | n/a | 150.6 | n/a | [1] |
| 2008-09 | n/a | 148.5 | n/a | [1] |

[1] Denotes zero

*Notes:*

1. Due to SHA reconfigurations, data from prior to 2002-03 are not available at SHA level.
2. Suffolk West PCT only provided acute beds in 2002-03. They subsequently provided geriatric beds.
3. Suffolk West PCT was formed at the start of 2002-03 from Bury St Edmonds PCT. The old organisation did not provide any beds.
4. Suffolk PCT was formed in October 2006 from the merger of Suffolk Coastal PCT, Ipswich PCT, Central Suffolk PCT and Suffolk West PCT. Suffolk PCT does not provide any acute beds.
5. Figures may have altered slightly from the answer to earlier PQs as the table has been updated using the revised population statistics issued by the Office of National Statistics.

*Source:*

Department of Health form KH03 and Office for National Statistics for population data.

## Midwives

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have *(a)* taken up and *(b)* left a job as a midwife in each of the last five years. [315439]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected by the Department in the manner requested.

The following table shows the number of midwives in post, within the National Health Service in England in each of the last five years.

| | *Registered midwives* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 24,844 |
| 2005 | 24,808 |
| 2006 | 24,469 |
| 2007 | 25,093 |
| 2008 | 25,664 |

*Source:*

Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

## Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the five-year survival rate for patients treated for *(a)* lung, *(b)* kidney and *(c)* liver cancer at Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton was at the latest date for which figures are available. [314307]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the five year survival rate for patients treated for (a) lung, (b) kidney and (c) liver cancer at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton was at the latest date for which figures are available. [314307]

Cancer survival rates are not routinely available for patients treated in individual hospitals.

One-year survival figures for three cancers (breast, colorectal and lung) by primary care trust have recently been published by the Department of Health in the second annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy. The report can be downloaded from this link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109338

## NHS: Children

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* other obligation applies to the NHS in respect of its duty of care towards children by reporting (i) births and (ii) evidence of lack of care of a child to local children's services; and if he will make a statement. [315355]

**Ann Keen:** The Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities through their directors of children's services to co-ordinate the production of a strategic Children and Young People's Plan in order to provide an overarching vision for all children and young people in a given area.

Health visitors, who are notified of all pregnancies and births and are responsible for the registered population, are an integral part of the child health team.

Under section 11 of the Act, all primary care trusts, NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and strategic health authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and are members of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The inter-agency statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, states that

> "If somebody believes that a child may be suffering, or be at risk of suffering, significant harm, then they should always refer their concerns to LA children's social care."

## NHS: Ex-servicemen

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many veterans received priority treatment on the NHS in 2009. [313426]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Priority access to national health service secondary care for conditions likely to be related to service (subject to the clinical needs of all patients), previously only available to war pensioners, was extended to all veterans (someone who has served at least one day in the United Kingdom armed forces) from 1 January 2008. Data on the number of veterans receiving priority treatment are not collected centrally.

## NHS: Local Government

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* have and *(b)* have not appointed a local director of public health jointly with each relevant local authority. [314642]

**Gillian Merron:** This information can be found in tables which have been placed in the Library.

## Nurses

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses had not secured a nursing position within *(a)* one month, *(b)* three months, *(c)* six months, *(d)* one year, *(e)* two years and *(f)* five years after qualifying in each of the last five years. [315073]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

## Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were recorded as having *(a)* an admission and *(b)* a discharge episode with a diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each (A) strategic health authority and (B) primary care trust commissioning area of residence in each year since 1997-98. [314565]

**Gillian Merron:** This information has been placed in the Library.

## Social Services: Regulation

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* improvement plans, *(b)* warning letters, *(c)* statutory requirement notices, *(d)* changes to conditions of registration and *(e)* cancellations of registration were issued by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in relation to each category of care in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313748]

**Phil Hope:** The information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission.

The information is not available in the format requested.

The Commission is unable to provide the requested information relating to improvement plans or warning letters. These are not specifically recorded in its central database.

The Commission has advised that it is unable to provide statutory requirement notices. The following table shows the numbers of statutory enforcement notices issued to adult social care services each year.

*Number of statutory enforcement notices issued to adult social care services in each financial year*

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home care agency | 1 | 6 | 39 | 24 |
| Nurses agency | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| Nursing home | 86 | 136 | 142 | 86 |
| Residential care home | 216 | 221 | 359 | 223 |

*Number of statutory enforcement notices issued to adult social care services in each financial year*

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 394 | 364 | 548 | 340 |

[1] The Commission has figures for statutory enforcement notices up to 31 October 2007 only for the year 2007-08. After that point the Commission stopped collecting this information centrally, and although the information is collected locally it is not broken down into the categories shown.

The Commission has advised that it does not hold data on changes to conditions of registration.

The Commission has provided the following data on cancellations, which are broken down into non-urgent and urgent cancellations.

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Non-urgent cancellations of registration of adult social care services* | | | | | |
| Home care agency | 0 | 7 | 14 | 20 | 9 |
| Nurses agency | 8 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 6 |
| Nursing home | 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Residential care home | 16 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 23 |
| Total | 32 | 46 | 57 | 66 | 46 |
| | | | | | |
| *Urgent cancellations of registration of adult social care services* | | | | | |
| Residential care home | 5 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| Nursing home | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Home care agency | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

### Tarceva

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the NHS does not meet the cost of the prescription of Tarceva to patients in England; and whether he plans to review this policy. [315399]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published technology appraisal guidance in November 2008 recommending Tarceva as an alternative to the drug docetaxel for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer. Primary care trusts are statutorily required to make funding available for treatments recommended by NICE's technology appraisal guidance.

## JUSTICE

### Administration of Estates

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the consultation carried out by his Department's predecessor "Administration of estates. Review of the Statutory Legacy". [314406]

**Bridget Prentice:** We received 33 responses to the consultation: "Administration of Estates - Review of the Statutory Legacy" (CP 11/05). We published the post-consultation report in August 2008 (CP(R) 11/05). As a result of the consultation, we increased the statutory legacy from £125,000 to £250,000 where the deceased leaves a surviving spouse or civil partner and children and from £200,000 to £450,000 where the deceased leaves a surviving spouse or civil partner and parents or siblings, but no children. These changes were implemented on 1 February 2009.

The consultation paper also sought views on whether there should be a review of the general law of intestacy. Following the response, this topic was referred to the Law Commission, which published a consultation paper: Intestacy and Family Provision Claims on Death (Law Com CP No. 191) in October 2009. The Commission expects to report in 2011.

Since the publication of the response, I have not received any representations that specifically relate to the consultation paper.

### Data Access and Compliance Unit

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which senior officials work in his Department's Data Access and Compliance Unit; what their roles are; what their qualifications are for undertaking those roles; and who is responsible for the performance of the unit. [314696]

**Mr. Wills:** The Data Access and Compliance Unit is part of the Information Access Division, which is responsible for the Ministry's compliance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act, as well as for the provision of library services to the Ministry. It is headed by a Senior Civil Servant, reporting to the Information Director. The performance of the Unit is monitored at all levels of management, individual measures being part of the job objectives of the members of staff involved. All managers receive appropriate levels of training and support to enable them to fulfil their roles.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evaluations have been made of the performance of his Department's Data Access and Compliance Unit; who undertook those evaluations; and what use has been made of those evaluations by *(a)* his Departments Corporate Management Board and *(b)* Ministers. [314716]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice's Data Access and Compliance Unit's performance targets are incorporated into the objectives of the staff that work in and manage the unit, as well as into departmental targets. Regular updates on performance against these targets are provided to senior staff, members of the Ministry's Corporate Management Board, and Ministers.

Starting with the Unit's formation in late 2008, a body of work has been undertaken to improve Freedom of Information performance across the Ministry. Timeliness performance—the number of cases answered within statutory deadlines—has risen from 51 per cent. in December 2008 to 77 per cent. at the end of October 2009. We expect a further improvement when the figures for the period ending in December 2009 are available.

### Data Protection: Freedom of Information

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings there have been between his Department and the Information Commissioner's Office to discuss his Department's compliance with its obligations under data protection and freedom of information legislation in the last 12 months; when each such meeting occurred; and who attended in each case. [314697]

**Mr. Wills:** Officials in the Data Access and Compliance Unit have met officials from the Information Commissioner's Office on three occasions since the Unit was created in October 2008.

Officials in the Ministry continue to have regular contact with the Information Commissioner's Office, both to discuss its overall performance in relation to its data protection and freedom of information obligations, and in the course of the Commissioner's investigations in individual cases.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps have been taken to ensure that outstanding freedom of information and subject access requests to his Department are answered within the statutory timescale; and which official in his Department has responsibility for advising Ministers on freedom of information. [314698]

**Mr. Wills:** The creation of the Data Access and Compliance Unit in October 2008 has allowed the Ministry to make significant improvements to its Freedom of Information and Data Protection performance. The Unit has taken forward a programme of wide-ranging work since its inception, including improving staff awareness of the Ministry's obligations under both pieces of legislation, and the extension of the network of staff responsible for handling requests within business areas.

Where appropriate Ministers receive advice in relation to individual cases from officials in the Ministry's Information and Legal Directorates.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training has been provided to *(a)* him, *(b)* the Minister of State with responsibility for freedom of information and data protection, *(c)* the Permanent Secretary and *(d)* the Director-General, Democracy, Constitution and Law on his Department's responsibilities under freedom of information and data protection legislation; and if he will publish the written material provided in relation to such training. [314699]

**Mr. Wills:** Ministers and senior officials at the Ministry are fully aware of its obligations under Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation, and expect it to achieve the highest possible standards of compliance.

No bespoke Freedom of Information training has been provided to either Ministers or senior officials. However, all members of the Ministry's staff—including the permanent secretary and the director general, democracy, constitution and law—are required to complete mandatory online training on the correct handling of information and ensuring data is appropriately protected in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The training package exists in electronic form on a password protected website accessible only to the Ministry's staff, and to transfer it into a form appropriate for publication would incur disproportionate cost.

Ministers and senior officials are advised on a regular basis of the Ministry's performance in these areas, as well as receiving policy and legal advice in relation to individual cases where appropriate.

### David Kelly Death Inquiry

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons certain papers submitted to Lord Hutton's inquiry into the death of Dr. David Kelly are not to be disclosed until 70 years have elapsed. [314462]

**Mr. Straw:** No determination has been made that the medical reports and photographs connected to the death of Dr. David Kelly should be closed for 70 years. Rather, Lord Hutton noted in his statement on Tuesday 26 January that he had requested that the post mortem examination report relating to Dr. Kelly not be disclosed for 70 years in view of the distress that could be caused to Dr. Kelly's wife and daughters.

The Ministry of Justice is now considering carefully the most appropriate course of action.

### Debt Collection

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the redacted elements of magistrates courts guidance to bailiffs on procedures for breaking into properties as a last resort. [314404]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are currently legal proceedings between the Ministry of Justice, the Information Commissioner and another party on this subject.

### Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value is of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313794]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice does not own any residential properties, however its agencies, HM Courts Service and the National Offender Management Service both own residential properties to support their operations.

HM Courts Service owns 19 residential properties, made up of:

| *Residential* | *Number* | *Book value at 31 December 2009 (£1,000)* | *Rent received (£1,000 pa)* | *Potential rent (£1,000 pa)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up for sale | 2 | 250 | 0 | [1] |
| Empty | 2 | 411 | 0 | 6 |
| Occupied and rented out | 4 | 1,055 | 17 | 0 |
| Judges lodging (freehold) | 11 | 14,554 | 0 | [1] |
| Total | 19 | 16,271 | 17 | 6 |

[1] Not available for rent.

The empty and occupied and rented out properties are being held in connection with the construction of a new court scheme which is in the very early stages of development.

Judges lodgings provide accommodation for judges on circuit duty. For security these lodgings cannot be made available for wider rental. Where suitable alternative rental properties are available they are used and surplus lodgings have been sold.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) owns 397 residential properties, made up of:

| *Residential* | *Number* | *Book value at 31 December 2009 (£1,000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Operational use | 88 | 10,300 |
| Occupied | 198 | 24,600 |
| Unoccupied | 111 | 11,700 |

The operational residential properties are currently used for office space, training and other operations. The NOMS figures do not include prisons or approved premises used to house offenders.

Unoccupied properties are no longer required for NOMS operations and are currently being prepared for disposal.

Occupied premises are provided to HM Prison Service personnel to meet operational requirements and the individual prison officers pay rental depending on their job grade. As these properties are not available for rental on the open market, NOMS does not have a potential market rental value for them.

The balance sheets of NOMS and HM Courts Service contain both freehold properties and those on finance leases. For the purposes of this question we have included only freehold properties.

## Driving Offences

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence was in England and Wales in respect of convictions for motoring offences which resulted in a fatality in each of the last three years. [314675]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is shown in the following table.

*Number of offenders sentenced, result and average custodial sentence length (ACSL)[1] for motoring offences resulting in death[2], 2006-08*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total sentenced | 299 | 318 | 275 |
| Discharge | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Fine | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Community sentence | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| Suspended sentence | 8 | 15 | 10 |
| Immediate custody | 280 | 287 | 255 |
| Otherwise dealt with | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| ACSL | 42.6 | 42.1 | 48.1 |

[1] ACSL (months) excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

[2] Offences of causing death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs causing death by driving: unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers, causing death by aggravated vehicle taking.

*Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

## Driving Offences: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (*a*) males and (*b*) females in each age group were prosecuted for speeding offences were over the drink-drive limit in each of the last two years. [314011]

**Claire Ward:** Centrally held information does not identify, of persons prosecuted for speed limit offences, those persons who were breath-tested at the time of the offence.

To answer the question based on the number of persons prosecuted for speed limit offences who were also convicted for offences of driving after consuming alcohol would require manual intervention. It is not possible to provide an answer without incurring a disproportionate cost.

## Legal Aid Scheme

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have had a Legal Services Commission legal aid charge postponed and attached to their property after a family proceeding in the last three years. [314402]

**Bridget Prentice:** After preserving or recovering property in a family case with the help of legal aid, clients can ask to defer repayment of their legal aid costs, and instead register a charge on their property. There are 8,239 cases where a charge was attached to property in the last three years and remains open (unpaid).

| | *Cases* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,050 |
| 2007-08 | 2,272 |
| 2008-09 | 3,917 |
| Total | 8,239 |

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Government will reduce the interest rate applied to legal aid charges to the Legal Services Commission to reflect changes in the Bank of England base rate. [314405]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 263W.

### National Standards for Enforcement Agents

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to monitor the level of compliance of *(a)* magistrates, *(b)* HM Courts Service fines officers and *(c)* bailiff companies with the provisions on vulnerable situations of his Department's National Standards for Enforcement Agents. [314403]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 377-78W.

I confirm that a protocol has been introduced setting out the procedure to be taken with vulnerable defaulters including the instruction not to take any action to levy distress without prior reference to the court where the individual falls into one of categories deemed as vulnerable. Complaints by members of the public about the conduct of the contractor must be reported to Her Majesty's Courts Service regional contract managers, together with details of how those complaints have been dealt with and resolved. These are reviewed as part of the contract management process.

Further reporting protocols now contained within the contracts strengthen the control and monitoring arrangements available to HMCS on contractor performance. This includes quarterly and six-month assurance reporting. Within these reports each contractor will detail its procedures and processes and the agreed authorisation methods with each HMCS region and area for the operation of the contracts.

There is also a requirement for each contractor to make an annual operation report reviewing their management of the contract. Combined, these reports form the basis for the HMCS Director of Enforcement to make an annual report covering the operation of all regional contracts.

The reports produced by the contractors at the six month and yearly stages of the contract will be reviewed and reported on to the HMCS Compliance and Enforcement and main HMCS Management boards.

### Political Parties: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to make an order under section 76A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to vary the maximum amount of candidates' election expenses. [314942]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government do not intend to vary the maximum amount of candidates' election expenses under section 76 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 before the next parliamentary general election. In reaching this view I have consulted the Electoral Commission, who agree that an increase in spending limits is not necessary at this point. I will be placing copies of both letters in the Library.

### Prosecutions: Television

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* each region of England and *(b)* Wales were (i) fined and (ii) prosecuted for non-payment of television licence fees in each of the last three years. [314487]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is shown in the following tables.

*Total fines for TV licence in each region, 2006-08*

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 8,640 | 7,814 | 10,107 |
| North West | 25,079 | 24,839 | 23,578 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 12,663 | 13,561 | 8,254 |
| East Midlands | 8,126 | 9,477 | 10,566 |
| West Midlands | 12,666 | 13,751 | 15,698 |
| East of England | 8,280 | 7,976 | 7,363 |
| London | 14,845 | 17,860 | 15,642 |
| South East | 7,459 | 8,423 | 10,117 |
| South West | 6,627 | 7,100 | 7,465 |
| Wales | 9,600 | 9,313 | 8,332 |

*Notes:*

1. The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect on 1 April 2004.
2. These are the numbers fined against for all offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act which mainly but not exclusively covers TV licensing offences.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion, by Government office region, England and Wales, 2006-08*[1, 2]

| | 2006[3] | 2007[4] | 2008[4] |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 9,407 | 8,456 | 10,342 |
| North West | 27,153 | 26,657 | 25,536 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 14,283 | 14,820 | 13,080 |
| East Midlands | 9,221 | 10,534 | 11,111 |
| West Midlands | 14,234 | 15,147 | 17,425 |
| East of England | 9,642 | 9,145 | 8,458 |
| London | 19,308 | 22,791 | 19,583 |
| South East | 8,805 | 9,786 | 11,780 |
| South West | 7,616 | 8,139 | 8,165 |
| Total England | 119,669 | 125,475 | 125,480 |
| Wales | 10,461 | 10,073 | 9,064 |
| Total Wales | 10,461 | 10,073 | 9,064 |
| Total England and Wales | 130,130 | 135,548 | 134,544 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] As well as television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.

[4] These figures relate to the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

These data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Northern Ireland were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* fined for non-payment of the television licence fee (i) in total, (ii) by local authority area and (iii) by constituency in each of the last three years. [314674]

**Bridget Prentice:** In 2008, 5,272 people in Northern Ireland were prosecuted for non-payment of the television licence fee and 4,118 fines imposed.

In 2007, 5901 people were prosecuted and 4,464 fines imposed.

Corresponding information for 2006 is not available.

Information is not collected by local authority area or by constituency. However, the following table shows information for 2007 and 2008 for magistrates courts across Northern Ireland:

*Defendants prosecuted for no TV licence—2007*

| *Magistrates court office* | *Number of defendants* | *Number of fines* |
|---|---|---|
| Belfast | 1,573 | 1,204 |
| Newtownards | 188 | 154 |
| Downpatrick | 136 | 110 |
| Craigavon | 330 | 264 |
| Armagh | 181 | 127 |
| Banbridge | 52 | 37 |
| Omagh | 149 | 103 |
| Strabane | 91 | 69 |
| Antrim | 221 | 172 |
| Londonderry | 694 | 493 |
| Enniskillen | 114 | 89 |
| Coleraine | 305 | 233 |
| Newry | 362 | 245 |
| Limavady | 252 | 198 |
| Magherafelt | 94 | 74 |
| Ballymena | 262 | 186 |
| Bangor | 147 | 115 |
| Larne | 93 | 62 |
| Lisburn | 387 | 308 |
| Dungannon | 270 | 221 |
| Total | 5,901 | 4,464 |

*Defendants prosecuted for no TV Licence—2008*

| *Magistrates court office* | *Number of defendants* | *Number of fines* |
|---|---|---|
| Belfast | 1,620 | 1,334 |
| Newtownards | 264 | 212 |
| Downpatrick | 116 | 97 |
| Craigavon | 330 | 255 |
| Armagh | 231 | 171 |
| Banbridge | 76 | 53 |
| Omagh | 154 | 98 |
| Strabane | 75 | 51 |
| Antrim | 105 | 75 |
| Londonderry | 384 | 313 |
| Enniskillen | 125 | 87 |
| Coleraine | 277 | 213 |
| Newry | 319 | 223 |
| Limavady | 102 | 72 |
| Magherafelt | 81 | 64 |
| Ballymena | 168 | 134 |
| Bangor | 150 | 100 |
| Larne | 67 | 53 |
| Lisburn | 345 | 279 |
| Dungannon | 283 | 234 |
| Total | 5,272 | 4,118 |

## Victim Support Schemes

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been distributed from the Victims Fund in 2009-10; which groups have received money from the fund for the provision of services to victims of *(a)* homicide and *(b)* hate crime in 2009-10; and what plans he has for the distribution of monies from the fund in 2010-11. [315346]

**Claire Ward:** The Victims Fund comprises three parts: £1.25 million for organisations supporting victims of sexual violence; £0.25 million for organisations supporting the bereaved relatives of homicide victims; and £0.25 million for organisations supporting victims of hate crime.

In financial year 2009-10 the homicide and hate crime sections were supplemented from within the Home Office budget by £73,000 and £59,500 following negotiations with successful applicants.

In 2009-10 a total of £1,892,254.69 was distributed from the Victims Fund. Of this, £1,249,664 was distributed to organisations supporting victims of sexual violence; £333,101 to organisations supporting the bereaved relatives of homicide victims; and £309,489.69 to organisations supporting victims of hate crime.

The following organisations received money from the homicide section of the Victims Fund:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Winston's Wish | 46,835 |
| Advocacy after fatal domestic abuse | 34,616 |

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Support against Murder and manslaughter | 27,850 |
| National Victims Association | 73,800 |
| MAMAA | 75,000 |
| Damilola Taylor Trust | 75,000 |

The following organisations received money from the hate crime section of the Victims Fund:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Age Concern Camden | 23,110 |
| Community Security Trust | 54,354 |
| GIRES | 10,110 |
| North Herts People First | 17,788 |
| Redbridge Equalities Council | 24,038.69 |
| Royal Mencap Kirklees | 4,000 |
| Stonewall | 25,000 |
| Stop Hate UK | 71,600 |
| Torfaen People First | 29,064 |
| Voice UK | 50,425 |

All sections of the homicide fund will be administered from the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) in 2010-11. The bidding round for distribution of the fund opened on 29 January. The homicide and hate crime sections will be distributed following assessment of bids by OCJR and the Home Office respectively. The sexual violence section will be distributed on behalf of OCJR by an expert intermediary organisation, to be chosen from within the sexual violence sector.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what telephone helplines his Department and its predecessors have provided for victims of murder and manslaughter in each of the last 10 years. [315350]

**Claire Ward:** Since 1999, core funding has been provided to SAMM (Support After Murder and Manslaughter) who operate a national helpline for relatives bereaved by murder and manslaughter.

In addition, my Department provides funding to Victim Support. In each of the last ten years their annual grant supports their telephone helpline which offers emotional support and, practical advice to victims of crime including relatives bereaved by homicide.

On 26 October 2009 the Ministry of Justice launched an advice helpline to provide relatives bereaved by homicide legal advice on personal and social issues.

Since 2004-05 the Victims Fund has provided grant funding to a number of specialist organisations working to assist relatives bereaved by murder and manslaughter. This funding has supported telephone advice offered by the organisations Winston's Wish, Advocacy after Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA), and Mothers Against Murder and Aggression (MAMAA).

## CABINET OFFICE

### 10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent on Project George; and what works have been completed under the project. [312303]

**Angela E. Smith:** Any costs involved in the maintenance and improvement of the Cabinet Office estate are included in Cabinet Office accounts.

### Breast Cancer: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people resident in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area were diagnosed with breast cancer in each year since 1997. [315380]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 2 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people resident in (a) Cleethorpes constituency, (b) North East Lincolnshire local authority area and (c) North Lincolnshire local authority area were diagnosed with breast cancer in each year since 1997. [315380]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table attached provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for (a) Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency, (b) North East Lincolnshire unitary authority and (c) North Lincolnshire unitary authority, for each year from 1997 to 2007.

*Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer,[1] persons,[2] (a) Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency, (b) North East Lincolnshire unitary authority and (c) North Lincolnshire unitary authority,[3] 1997 to 2007[4]*

*Persons*

| | *Cleethorpes* | *North East Lincolnshire* | *North Lincolnshire* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 57 | 104 | 92 |
| 1998 | 65 | 117 | 69 |
| 1999 | 54 | 103 | 127 |
| 2000 | 104 | 120 | 133 |
| 2001 | 63 | 120 | 113 |
| 2002 | 75 | 126 | 95 |
| 2003 | 73 | 106 | 150 |
| 2004 | 63 | 106 | 146 |
| 2005 | 75 | 130 | 135 |
| 2006 | 70 | 103 | 89 |
| 2007 | 68 | 102 | 132 |

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Around 99 per cent. of breast cancers cases are in women.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

### Cancer: South Yorkshire

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many patients in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have been diagnosed with melanoma in each of the last 10 years; [314634]

(2) how many patients in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have been diagnosed with lung cancer in each of the last 10 years. [314635]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1) How many patients in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster have been diagnosed with melanoma in each of the last 10 years. [314634]

2) How many patients in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster have been diagnosed with lung cancer in each of the last 10 years. [314635]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of melanoma and lung cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The tables attached provide the number of newly diagnosed cases of (1) melanoma (Table 1), (2) lung cancer (Table 2) in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster metropolitan districts, from 1997 to 2007.

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma[1], Barnsley and Doncaster metropolitan districts[2], 1997 to 2007[3]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Persons* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Barnsley | 15 | 14 | 20 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 8 | 16 | 22 | 33 | 40 |
| Doncaster | 17 | 20 | 14 | 36 | 25 | 44 | 25 | 42 | 41 | 47 | 46 |

[1] Melanoma skin cancer is coded as C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

*Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1] Barnsley and Doncaster metropolitan districts[2], 1997 to 2007[3]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Persons* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Barnsley | 196 | 208 | 171 | 205 | 184 | 170 | 184 | 179 | 190 | 193 | 224 |
| Doncaster | 232 | 241 | 236 | 263 | 234 | 270 | 257 | 244 | 253 | 275 | 258 |

[1] Lung cancer is coded as C34 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

## Census

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what directions Ministers have given to the UK Statistics Authority on the 2011 Census under section 2 of the Census Act 1920, as amended. [315269]

**Angela E. Smith:** No directions have been given to the UK Statistics Authority on the 2011 Census under section 2 of the Census Act 1920, as amended.

## Charities: Standards

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Charity Commission's *(a)* policy on and *(b)* methodology for applying the public benefit test to charities. [315207]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated February 2010:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question (315207) requesting that a copy of our policy on, and methodology for, applying the public benefit test to charities is placed in the House of Commons Library.

The Charities Act 2006 gives the Commission a statutory duty to publish guidance on the public benefit requirement. So far, and following extensive consultation, we have carried out this duty by publishing the guidance listed below which, in each case, includes a section which specifically sets out our approach to assessing public benefit:

Charities and Public Benefit—section H (January 2008)

The Prevention or Relief of Poverty for the Public Benefit—section G (December 2008)

The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit—Section G (December 2008)

The Advancement of Education for the Public Benefit—Section G (December 2008)

Public Benefit and Fee-Charging—Section E (December 2008)

As to the methodology for the first round of assessments, we described this in a letter which we sent at the beginning of the process to the twelve charities involved and also published on our website. "Public Benefit Assessments: Emerging findings for charity trustees from the Charity Commission's public benefit assessment work: 2008-09" also explained our methodology. I have arranged for these and the following additional documents, which further explain our policy and methodology, to be placed in the Library:

Public benefit: statement of the basis for the Charity Commission's role and actions (December 2008);

the individual reports from the first round of public benefit assessment (July 2009); and

open letter from the Chair and Chief Executive of the Charity Commission (July/August 2009).

All of this information is also publicly available in the public benefit area of the Charity Commission's website at:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk

I hope this is helpful.

## Charity Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 694W, on the "Charity Commission: public relations", what the nature was of the training that mandate provided. [314847]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated February 2009:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (314847) on the nature of the training provided by Mandate to the Charity Commission. The training was to assist witnesses in their preparation for the Commission's appearance before the Public Administration Select Committee on 9 October 2008. I hope this is helpful.

### Civil Servants: Pensions

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what amendments to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme will come into force on 1 April 2010. [314554]

**Tessa Jowell:** I propose to make amendments to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme shortly, to introduce new terms from 1 April 2010. The new terms will be fair and affordable, and, following effective discussions with the trade unions will take particular account of the position of the lowest paid. I intend to lay the amendments before the House very shortly. They will, as the Prime Minister pledged last year, save up to £500 million over the next three years.

### Civil Servants: West Midlands

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many job vacancies have been advertised internally under the Civil Service West Midlands Pilot; and what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* department and *(c)* salary range of each was. [315320]

**Angela E. Smith:** The latest data, up to the end of December 2009, show that 2,252 vacancies have been advertised internally under the Civil Service West Midlands Pilot.

The pilot does not record data for each advertised vacancy on job title and salary range. We can confirm the Departments formally monitored within the pilot are HMRC, DWP, HO, MOJ, MOD and DEFRA, though some other civil service organisations in the region have also advertised vacancies under the scheme.

To date, advertised vacancies have been at civil service grades AA, AO, EO, HEO, SEO, grade 7 and grade 6 with salaries being commensurate with the relevant pay scale for those grades.

The breakdown of vacancies by Department and grade for the period of the pilot until end of December 2009 is:

| *Department* | *AA* | *AO* | *EO* | *HEO* | *SEO* | *G7* | *G6* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HMRC | 4 | 13 | 41 | 46 | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| DWP | 5 | 159 | 392 | 95 | 43 | 18 | 2 |
| HO | 8 | 26 | 77 | 36 | 21 | 5 | 4 |
| MOJ | 35 | 89 | 38 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| DEFRA | 2 | 14 | 20 | 35 | 31 | 19 | 2 |
| MOD | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] MOD does not provide data in this way; however it is understood to follow a similar pattern across grades at about 50 vacancies per month.

### Death: Homelessness

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of individuals with no fixed abode were recorded in each of the last 24 months. [315194]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 2 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of individuals with no fixed abode were recorded in each of the last 24 months. (315194)

Deaths of people with no fixed abode occurring in 2009 are not yet available.

The Office for National Statistics collects information on deaths in England and Wales as they are registered. Deaths of people with no fixed abode will generally be registered by a coroner rather than a medical practitioner, since all deaths that may be due to self neglect must be referred to a coroner.

The table attached provides the number of deaths of people with no fixed abode occurring in England and Wales, by month, for the years 2007 and 2008 (the latest year available).

*Table 1. Number of deaths of people with no fixed abode, England and Wales, 2007-08[1]*

| | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 7 | 8 |
| February | 5 | 14 |
| March | 5 | 7 |
| April | 13 | 6 |
| May | 11 | 9 |
| June | 6 | 8 |
| July | 14 | 6 |
| August | 11 | 4 |
| September | 10 | 7 |
| October | 7 | 7 |
| November | 5 | 8 |
| December | 6 | 7 |

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar month.

### Deaths: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the 10 most frequently recorded causes of death were for *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* boys under the age of 18 years and *(d)* girls under the age of 18 years in Torbay constituency in each of the last 10 years. [314609]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 29 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the ten most frequently recorded causes of death were for *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* boys under the age of 18 years and *(d)* girls under the age of 18 years in Torbay constituency in each of the last ten years. (314609)

The tables attached present the ten most frequently recorded causes of death[1], for (a) males aged 18 years and over (Table 1) and (b) females aged 18 years and over (Table 2), in Torbay parliamentary constituency, for the years 2001 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Due to the small numbers of deaths of (c) boys under the age of 18 years and (d) girls under the age of 18 years, equivalent information for frequently recorded causes of death could not be produced.

Individual causes of death are coded by ONS using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The causes of death shown in the tables are groups of codes designed for the tabulation of deaths according to 'main' causes[2].

Equivalent information is not readily available for years before 2001, when an earlier version of the International Classification of Diseases was in use.

[1] In some years, more than 10 causes of death are presented where the numbers of deaths were the same as those for the 10th most frequent cause.

[2] Griffiths, C, Rooney, C, and Brock, A. (2005) 'Leading causes of death in England and Wales - how should we group causes?'

*Table 1: Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), males aged 18 years and over, Torbay parliamentary constituency, 2001-08*[1,2,3]

| | Years when this was a main cause of death for males | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *ICD-10 codes* |
| Aortic aneurysm and dissection | — | — | — | — | — | * | * | * | 171 |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 160-169 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | J40-J47 |
| Cirrhosis and other diseases of liver | — | — | — | * | * | — | — | — | K70-K76 |
| Dementia and Alzheimer's disease | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | F01, F03, G30 |
| Diseases of the urinary system | * | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | N00-N39 |
| Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease | * | * | * | * | — | — | * | — | 150-151 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | J10-J18 |
| Ischaemic heart diseases | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 120-125 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | C18-C21 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of pancreas | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | C25 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of prostate | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | C61 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | | C33-C34 |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue | — | — | * | — | * | — | — | * | C81-C96 |
| Parkinson's disease | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | G20 |

[1] Most frequent causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in male deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 59 per cent of all male deaths in Torbay constituency between 2001 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

*Table 2. Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), females aged 18 years and over, Torbay constituency, 2001-08*[1,2,3]

| | Years when this was a main cause of death for females | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *ICD-10 codes* |
| Aortic aneurysm and dissection | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | 171 |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 160 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | J40-J47, F01, F03 |
| Dementia and Alzheimer's disease | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | G30 |
| Diabetes | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | E10-E14 |
| Diseases of the urinary system | * | * | — | — | — | * | * | * | N00-N39 |
| Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 150-151 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | J10-J18 |
| Ischaemic heart diseases | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | — | 120-125 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | — | C18-C21 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of ovary | — | * | * | * | — | * | — | * | C56 |
| Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | C33-C34 |

*Table 2. Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), females aged 18 years and over, Torbay constituency, 2001-08*[1,2,3]

| | *Years when this was a main cause of death for females* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cause of death*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *ICD-10 codes* |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of breast | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | C50 |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | C81-C96 |

[1] Most frequent causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in female deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 58 per cent of all female deaths in Torbay constituency between 2001 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

## Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by her Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [314593]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Cabinet Office commissioned Central Office of Information (COI) to run a citizens' deliberative discussion in January 2009, to inform "New Opportunities", the Social Mobility White Paper launched that same month. Approximately 40-50 members of the public attended the discussion.

## Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 411W, on departmental work experience, what the average pro rata salary paid to interns in the Cabinet Office and Downing Street was in the latest year for which figures are available. [312439]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. Interns are recruited directly by Business Units. Information on role and salary level is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Government Departments: Energy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions she has had with the Sustainable Development Commission on the estimated annual cost of energy used on the Government estate. [315560]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Minister for the Cabinet Office has not had any discussions with the Sustainable Development Commission on the estimated annual cost of energy used on the Government estate. However, officials within my Department work closely with the Sustainable Development Commission to improve our environmental performance.

## Government Departments: Procurement

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps she plans to take to encourage *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(c)* organisations employing young people to bid for Government contracts; and if she will make a statement. [315085]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Government are committed to providing a range of support to increase the ability of all types of third sector organisations, including social enterprises and organisations employing young people, to bid for and deliver Government contracts.

We have therefore funded the national programme for third sector commissioning which provides a range of training to improve and increase the commissioning of public services from the third sector.

The Government have also established the MISC 37 Cabinet Committee to investigate barriers to third sector organisations securing and delivering specific public service contracts.

In addition Futurebuilders investments have increased the ability of third sector organisations to better bid for, win and deliver Government contracts now and in the future. In 2009 alone Futurebuilders investees won over 230 public service delivery contracts.

To ensure that SMEs have equal opportunities to bid for Government business an OGC/BIS programme, Access for All, is currently implementing the recommendations made in the Glover Committee report "Accelerating the SME Economic Engine".

## Home Care Services: Finance

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing the provisions of the Personal Care at Home Bill in the first 12 months of implementation. [315087]

**Phil Hope:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 166W.

## Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the Charity Commission and *(c)* the Central Office of Information in the last year for which figures are available; and what the cost of such bookings was. [315275]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information is as follows:

(a) In the period January 2009 to December 2009 (inclusive), 55 bookings were made through the Cabinet Office's Expotel contract, for stays at five star hotels. This represents 3.3 per cent. of all hotel bookings for that period.

*(b)* No five star hotels were booked by Charity Commission staff through the Expotel contract in the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.

*(c)* No five star hotels were booked by the Central Office of Information staff through the Expotel contract in the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff her Department has appointed who later were discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [315230]

**Angela E. Smith:** Our records show that no illegal immigrants have been appointed at Cabinet Office since 2005.

### Non-profit Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department monitors the performance of social enterprise networks in each region. [315100]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office does not monitor the performance of the social enterprise networks in each region. The Office of the Third Sector does, however, work closely with the regional social enterprise networks as well as the national social enterprise representative body, the Social Enterprise Coalition, of which the regional networks are all members. The Office of the Third Sector has recently committed to host and chair a regular working group of the regional social enterprise networks and the Regional Development Agencies which will aim to share information and best practice on supporting social enterprise.

### Personal Income: North West

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her most recent estimate is of the ratio of female to male earnings in the North West. [314507]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 29 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the latest estimate is of the ratio of female to male earnings in the North West. (314507)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the ratio of female to male earnings in 2009 for median hourly earnings excluding overtime for all and full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence, in the North West. Estimates of the ratio of female to male earnings for part-time employees are not reliable and are therefore not included.

*Ratio of female to male earnings for employee jobs[1]: The North West 2009*

| | Median hourly earnings excluding overtime | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | | | Women | | | Ratio of female to male earnings | |
| | *All* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *All* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *All* | *Full-time* |
| North West | 11.58 | 12.14 | 7.47 | 9.14 | 10.90 | 7.46 | 0.79 | 0.90 |

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. As at April 2009.

*Source:*

Annual Survey of hours and earnings, Office for National Statistics.

### Skin Cancer: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of melanoma in *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been reported in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [314282]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cases of melanoma in (a) adults and (b) children have been reported in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997 [314282].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of melanoma (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table attached provides the number of melanoma cases reported in (a) adults aged 16 years and over, in Milton Keynes unitary authority, from 1997 to 2007. There were no cases of melanoma in (b) children aged under 16 years in Milton Keynes unitary authority between 1997 to 2007.

*Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma[1], adults, Milton Keynes unitary authority[2], 1997 to 2007[3]*

| | *Persons* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 25 |
| 1998 | 16 |
| 1999 | 26 |
| 2000 | 30 |
| 2001 | 30 |
| 2002 | 29 |
| 2003 | 21 |
| 2004 | 36 |
| 2005 | 30 |
| 2006 | 34 |
| 2007 | 26 |

[1] Melanoma skin cancer is coded as C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of her Department on stress recognition and management. [314526]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office is committed to the health and well-being of its staff and has policies, procedures and support in place to identify, manage and reduce workplace stress.

I have placed a copy of the Department's Stress Recognition and Management Guide in the Library.

### Unemployment: Lone Parents

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents were unemployed in each year since 2007. [314666]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 29 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many lone parents were unemployed in each year since 2007. (314666)

The information requested is given in the table attached. The figures are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets for the three months ending June 2007 to 2009.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

*Table 1. Number of unemployed working-age[1] lone parents[2] United Kingdom, April to June*

*Thousands*

| | *Unemployed lone parents* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 113 |
| 2008 | 139 |
| 2009 | 169 |

[1] Women aged 16-59, men aged 16-64.

[2] Lone parents with dependent children; these are children who are under 16 or aged 16-18 unmarried and in full-time education.

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey household dataset

### Unemployment: Parents

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many working age adults with children were unemployed in each year since 2005. [314502]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 29 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many working-age adults with children were unemployed in each year since 2005. (314502)

The information requested is given in the table attached. The figures are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets for the three months ending June for each year requested.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

*Table 1: Number of unemployed working-age[1] adults with children[2] United Kingdom, April to June*

| | *Unemployed parents (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 349 |
| 2006 | 417 |
| 2007 | 389 |
| 2008 | 433 |
| 2009 | 636 |

[1] Women aged 16 to 59, men aged 16 to 64.

[2] Dependent children; these are children who are under 16 or aged 16 to 18 unmarried and in full time education.

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey Household dataset

### Unemployment: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in the South West had been claiming that allowance for *(a)* up to three, *(b)* between three and six, *(c)* between six and 12 and *(d)* between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009; and if she will make a statement. [314616]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 28 January 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in the South West had been claiming that allowance for (a) up to three, (b) between three and six, (c) between six and 12 and (d) between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009. (314616)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in each parliamentary constituency in the South West, by duration of the claim. Table 2 shows the percentage of all claimants in each constituency by duration of the claim.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance by duration[1] of claim*

*Number*

| | *September 2009* | | | | | *October 2009* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total claimants* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total claimants* |
| Bath | 795 | 285 | 295 | 95 | 1,495 | 755 | 325 | 275 | 125 | 1,475 |
| Bournemouth East | 905 | 425 | 455 | 120 | 1,915 | 915 | 430 | 415 | 140 | 1,915 |

*Table 1. Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance by duration[1] of claim*

*Number*

| | September 2009 | | | | | October 2009 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim:* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total claimants* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total claimants* |
| Bournemouth West | 935 | 445 | 475 | 115 | 1,980 | 970 | 420 | 475 | 125 | 2,005 |
| Bridgwater | 960 | 395 | 375 | 100 | 1,850 | 975 | 380 | 340 | 110 | 1,815 |
| Bristol East | 1,455 | 750 | 800 | 265 | 3,295 | 1,420 | 710 | 780 | 300 | 3,230 |
| Bristol North West | 1,145 | 600 | 670 | 210 | 2,655 | 1,150 | 535 | 645 | 220 | 2,580 |
| Bristol South | 1,325 | 690 | 780 | 200 | 3,010 | 1,280 | 665 | 705 | 215 | 2,885 |
| Bristol West | 1,255 | 490 | 480 | 195 | 2,455 | 1,210 | 495 | 475 | 200 | 2,415 |
| Cheltenham | 1,020 | 555 | 690 | 305 | 2,635 | 995 | 525 | 675 | 335 | 2,595 |
| Christchurch | 550 | 225 | 230 | 60 | 1,075 | 510 | 245 | 220 | 70 | 1,055 |
| Cotswold | 540 | 285 | 260 | 90 | 1,195 | 535 | 250 | 270 | 95 | 1,170 |
| Devizes | 905 | 420 | 425 | 135 | 1,925 | 880 | 420 | 410 | 160 | 1,910 |
| East Devon | 515 | 205 | 195 | 45 | 975 | 510 | 185 | 180 | 60 | 945 |
| Exeter | 1,095 | 455 | 430 | 170 | 2,165 | 1,065 | 410 | 390 | 170 | 2,055 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 955 | 365 | 340 | 145 | 1,830 | 985 | 365 | 340 | 150 | 1,865 |
| Forest of Dean | 705 | 370 | 445 | 145 | 1,695 | 675 | 340 | 405 | 185 | 1,620 |
| Gloucester | 1,320 | 725 | 830 | 340 | 3,235 | 1,335 | 720 | 815 | 385 | 3,280 |
| Kingswood | 1,045 | 500 | 475 | 130 | 2,160 | 1,050 | 480 | 450 | 130 | 2,120 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 610 | 270 | 230 | 50 | 1,175 | 565 | 250 | 220 | 65 | 1,110 |
| North Cornwall | 890 | 350 | 330 | 100 | 1,690 | 1,015 | 340 | 315 | 115 | 1,805 |
| North Devon | 690 | 255 | 205 | 60 | 1,220 | 685 | 230 | 185 | 70 | 1,170 |
| North Dorset | 490 | 215 | 185 | 35 | 930 | 455 | 190 | 170 | 50 | 875 |
| North Swindon | 1,140 | 735 | 755 | 190 | 2,860 | 1,180 | 635 | 745 | 195 | 2,800 |
| North Wiltshire | 805 | 410 | 400 | 105 | 1,745 | 750 | 385 | 370 | 135 | 1,665 |
| Northavon | 665 | 295 | 275 | 50 | 1,300 | 645 | 275 | 260 | 55 | 1,255 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 1,270 | 535 | 635 | 200 | 2,740 | 1,295 | 525 | 620 | 230 | 2,765 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 1,500 | 620 | 800 | 265 | 3,350 | 1,360 | 625 | 770 | 285 | 3,205 |
| Poole | 740 | 380 | 310 | 70 | 1,510 | 755 | 355 | 315 | 85 | 1,515 |
| Salisbury | 720 | 315 | 290 | 85 | 1,420 | 720 | 340 | 295 | 95 | 1,460 |
| Somerton and Frome | 625 | 255 | 255 | 60 | 1,205 | 625 | 235 | 245 | 55 | 1,165 |
| South Dorset | 665 | 275 | 260 | 85 | 1,300 | 735 | 265 | 265 | 90 | 1,370 |
| South East Cornwall | 770 | 300 | 250 | 80 | 1,415 | 775 | 295 | 245 | 80 | 1,400 |
| South Swindon | 1,355 | 790 | 885 | 270 | 3,355 | 1,290 | 715 | 875 | 285 | 3,225 |
| South West Devon | 580 | 250 | 205 | 65 | 1,115 | 565 | 220 | 200 | 60 | 1,065 |
| St Ives | 695 | 305 | 290 | 125 | 1,440 | 790 | 280 | 270 | 135 | 1,495 |
| Stroud | 885 | 460 | 420 | 125 | 1,905 | 820 | 465 | 400 | 130 | 1,830 |
| Taunton | 810 | 415 | 390 | 60 | 1,695 | 760 | 400 | 370 | 70 | 1,620 |
| Teignbridge | 855 | 350 | 275 | 90 | 1,590 | 790 | 350 | 270 | 100 | 1,535 |
| Tewkesbury | 745 | 375 | 395 | 150 | 1,690 | 735 | 360 | 375 | 155 | 1,655 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 710 | 270 | 255 | 95 | 1,345 | 695 | 265 | 245 | 100 | 1,320 |
| Torbay | 1,260 | 565 | 540 | 250 | 2,645 | 1,310 | 535 | 525 | 270 | 2,675 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 715 | 330 | 385 | 140 | 1,590 | 710 | 290 | 330 | 145 | 1,500 |
| Totnes | 735 | 270 | 300 | 100 | 1,415 | 725 | 255 | 245 | 115 | 1,355 |
| Truro and St Austell | 905 | 340 | 310 | 115 | 1,700 | 915 | 340 | 320 | 120 | 1,725 |
| Wansdyke | 600 | 250 | 250 | 55 | 1,170 | 570 | 240 | 230 | 65 | 1,115 |
| Wells | 715 | 295 | 300 | 70 | 1,395 | 690 | 285 | 270 | 85 | 1,345 |
| West Dorset | 415 | 165 | 125 | 35 | 750 | 440 | 160 | 125 | 35 | 765 |
| Westbury | 945 | 470 | 475 | 185 | 2,095 | 920 | 440 | 475 | 195 | 2,055 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 950 | 460 | 530 | 150 | 2,115 | 970 | 475 | 490 | 160 | 2,125 |
| Woodspring | 575 | 230 | 195 | 30 | 1,035 | 545 | 205 | 165 | 40 | 960 |

*Table 1: Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance by duration[1] of claim*

*Number*

|  | September 2009 |  |  |  |  | October 2009 |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Duration of claim | Up to 13 weeks | Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks | Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks | Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks | Total claimants | Up to 13 weeks | Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks | Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks | Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks | Total claimants |
| Yeovil | 845 | 315 | 320 | 25 | 1,515 | 800 | 320 | 260 | 40 | 1,430 |
| Total | 44,410 | 20,395 | 20,785 | 6,550 | 93,065 | 43,920 | 19,550 | 19,800 | 7,155 | 91,390 |

*Number*

|  | November 2009 |  |  |  |  | December 2009 |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Duration of claim | Up to 13 weeks | Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks | Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks | Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks | Total claimants | Up to 13 weeks | Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks | Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks | Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks | Total claimants |
| Bath | 725 | 335 | 250 | 115 | 1,445 | 705 | 325 | 240 | 115 | 1,405 |
| Bournemouth East | 905 | 415 | 390 | 160 | 1,885 | 855 | 415 | 365 | 175 | 1,830 |
| Bournemouth West | 985 | 410 | 445 | 150 | 2,010 | 925 | 440 | 415 | 170 | 1,965 |
| Bridgwater | 990 | 375 | 310 | 125 | 1,810 | 1,050 | 410 | 315 | 130 | 1,920 |
| Bristol East | 1,395 | 695 | 755 | 330 | 3,195 | 1,355 | 720 | 730 | 350 | 3,185 |
| Bristol North West | 1,075 | 515 | 570 | 260 | 2,450 | 1,060 | 575 | 535 | 260 | 2,460 |
| Bristol South | 1,230 | 685 | 650 | 240 | 2,825 | 1,190 | 680 | 630 | 265 | 2,790 |
| Bristol West | 1,185 | 540 | 440 | 225 | 2,425 | 1,025 | 530 | 425 | 225 | 2,245 |
| Cheltenham | 945 | 510 | 590 | 375 | 2,485 | 905 | 475 | 545 | 390 | 2,375 |
| Christchurch | 575 | 255 | 215 | 80 | 1,130 | 560 | 250 | 205 | 85 | 1,110 |
| Cotswold | 565 | 260 | 260 | 100 | 1,205 | 490 | 275 | 225 | 100 | 1,110 |
| Devizes | 935 | 420 | 405 | 180 | 1,985 | 845 | 440 | 355 | 195 | 1,880 |
| East Devon | 560 | 195 | 150 | 60 | 975 | 540 | 215 | 140 | 65 | 970 |
| Exeter | 1,125 | 400 | 330 | 180 | 2,055 | 1,030 | 425 | 335 | 170 | 1,990 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 1,010 | 385 | 320 | 160 | 1,910 | 1,030 | 425 | 310 | 180 | 1,975 |
| Forest of Dean | 695 | 355 | 355 | 215 | 1,645 | 695 | 335 | 325 | 235 | 1,610 |
| Gloucester | 1,285 | 685 | 730 | 405 | 3,140 | 1,270 | 655 | 690 | 425 | 3,075 |
| Kingswood | 915 | 480 | 440 | 165 | 2,010 | 850 | 485 | 410 | 185 | 1,945 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 615 | 230 | 205 | 65 | 1,130 | 570 | 250 | 180 | 80 | 1,095 |
| North Cornwall | 1,370 | 330 | 295 | 145 | 2,160 | 1,425 | 415 | 290 | 165 | 2,320 |
| North Devon | 780 | 225 | 160 | 65 | 1,240 | 855 | 245 | 145 | 70 | 1,325 |
| North Dorset | 495 | 195 | 165 | 55 | 920 | 475 | 185 | 160 | 60 | 890 |
| North Swindon | 1,150 | 570 | 700 | 245 | 2,705 | 1,075 | 525 | 635 | 265 | 2,540 |
| North Wiltshire | 755 | 385 | 335 | 165 | 1,665 | 710 | 370 | 310 | 180 | 1,595 |
| Northavon | 600 | 260 | 240 | 75 | 1,185 | 555 | 255 | 210 | 80 | 1,115 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 1,245 | 505 | 570 | 275 | 2,600 | 1,065 | 555 | 495 | 275 | 2,495 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 1,320 | 620 | 675 | 330 | 3,110 | 1,120 | 615 | 590 | 345 | 2,830 |
| Poole | 755 | 325 | 310 | 100 | 1,495 | 775 | 325 | 295 | 115 | 1,525 |
| Salisbury | 720 | 330 | 270 | 115 | 1,445 | 635 | 315 | 255 | 125 | 1,340 |
| Somerton and Frome | 575 | 265 | 205 | 60 | 1,115 | 565 | 275 | 200 | 75 | 1,130 |
| South Dorset | 905 | 285 | 240 | 110 | 1,550 | 970 | 315 | 240 | 115 | 1,655 |
| South East Cornwall | 850 | 325 | 225 | 90 | 1,505 | 845 | 335 | 215 | 95 | 1,505 |
| South Swindon | 1,250 | 675 | 790 | 330 | 3,105 | 1,150 | 605 | 705 | 350 | 2,870 |
| South West Devon | 520 | 215 | 195 | 60 | 1,005 | 440 | 180 | 170 | 60 | 870 |
| St Ives | 995 | 295 | 275 | 145 | 1,740 | 1,075 | 330 | 280 | 150 | 1,870 |
| Stroud | 810 | 450 | 380 | 150 | 1,810 | 770 | 410 | 380 | 160 | 1,740 |
| Taunton | 720 | 340 | 365 | 90 | 1,535 | 730 | 345 | 355 | 110 | 1,555 |
| Teignbridge | 825 | 320 | 225 | 115 | 1,515 | 785 | 320 | 215 | 120 | 1,465 |
| Tewkesbury | 690 | 345 | 350 | 155 | 1,580 | 625 | 305 | 340 | 150 | 1,460 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 660 | 270 | 215 | 110 | 1,270 | 635 | 290 | 195 | 115 | 1,250 |

*Number*

| | *November 2009* | | | | | *December 2009* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total claimants* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total claimants* |
| Torbay | 1,325 | 565 | 515 | 265 | 2,700 | 1,285 | 600 | 520 | 275 | 2,680 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 825 | 330 | 275 | 180 | 1,610 | 835 | 340 | 265 | 185 | 1,625 |
| Totnes | 775 | 305 | 215 | 120 | 1,415 | 790 | 305 | 210 | 140 | 1,445 |
| Truro and St Austell | 1,065 | 315 | 335 | 120 | 1,835 | 1,125 | 370 | 255 | 135 | 1,885 |
| Wansdyke | 560 | 240 | 205 | 80 | 1,085 | 550 | 250 | 185 | 85 | 1,070 |
| Wells | 720 | 300 | 245 | 100 | 1,365 | 740 | 330 | 245 | 110 | 1,425 |
| West Dorset | 445 | 170 | 125 | 35 | 775 | 480 | 195 | 130 | 45 | 850 |
| Westbury | 880 | 435 | 445 | 210 | 1,965 | 825 | 420 | 425 | 220 | 1,890 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 970 | 465 | 445 | 195 | 2,075 | 1,025 | 490 | 430 | 220 | 2,165 |
| Woodspring | 590 | 200 | 155 | 40 | 985 | 545 | 220 | 140 | 55 | 960 |
| Yeovil | 695 | 315 | 235 | 45 | 1,295 | 705 | 335 | 225 | 50 | 1,315 |
| Total | 44,645 | 19,380 | 18,255 | 8,075 | 91,360 | 44,085 | 19,795 | 17,190 | 8,610 | 89,680 |

1 Data on duration of claim is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

*Note:*

Data rounded to nearest five.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

*Table 2: Proportion of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance by duration[1] of claim*

*Percentage*

| | *September 2009* | | | | *October 2009* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| Bath | 53 | 19 | 20 | 6 | 51 | 22 | 19 | 7 |
| Bournemouth East | 47 | 22 | 24 | 6 | 48 | 23 | 22 | 7 |
| Bournemouth West | 47 | 22 | 24 | 6 | 48 | 21 | 24 | 6 |
| Bridgwater | 52 | 21 | 20 | 6 | 54 | 21 | 19 | 6 |
| Bristol East | 44 | 23 | 24 | 8 | 44 | 22 | 24 | 9 |
| Bristol North West | 43 | 23 | 25 | 8 | 45 | 21 | 25 | 9 |
| Bristol South | 44 | 23 | 26 | 7 | 44 | 23 | 24 | 8 |
| Bristol West | 51 | 20 | 20 | 8 | 50 | 21 | 20 | 8 |
| Cheltenham | 39 | 21 | 26 | 12 | 38 | 20 | 26 | 13 |
| Christchurch | 51 | 21 | 21 | 6 | 49 | 23 | 21 | 7 |
| Cotswold | 45 | 24 | 22 | 8 | 46 | 21 | 23 | 8 |
| Devizes | 47 | 22 | 22 | 7 | 46 | 22 | 22 | 8 |
| East Devon | 53 | 21 | 20 | 5 | 54 | 20 | 19 | 6 |
| Exeter | 51 | 21 | 20 | 8 | 52 | 20 | 19 | 8 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 52 | 20 | 19 | 8 | 53 | 20 | 18 | 8 |
| Forest of Dean | 42 | 22 | 26 | 9 | 42 | 21 | 25 | 11 |
| Gloucester | 41 | 22 | 26 | 11 | 41 | 22 | 25 | 12 |
| Kingswood | 48 | 23 | [illegible] | 6 | 50 | 23 | 21 | 6 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 52 | 23 | [illegible] | 5 | 51 | 23 | 20 | 6 |
| North Cornwall | 53 | 21 | 20 | 6 | 56 | 19 | 17 | 7 |
| North Devon | 57 | 21 | 17 | 5 | 58 | 20 | 16 | 6 |
| North Dorset | 53 | 23 | 20 | 4 | 52 | 22 | 20 | 6 |
| North Swindon | 40 | 26 | 26 | 7 | 42 | 23 | 27 | 7 |
| North Wiltshire | 46 | 24 | 23 | 6 | 45 | 23 | 22 | 8 |
| Northavon | 51 | 23 | 21 | 4 | 52 | 22 | 21 | 5 |
| Plymouth, Devonport* | 46 | 20 | 23 | 7 | 47 | 19 | 22 | 8 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 45 | 19 | 24 | 8 | 43 | 20 | 24 | 9 |
| Poole | 49 | 23 | 21 | 5 | 50 | 23 | 21 | 6 |

*Table 2: Proportion of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance by duration[1] of claim*

*Percentage*

| | *September 2009* | | | | *October 2009* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim:* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| Salisbury | 51 | 22 | 21 | 6 | 49 | 23 | 20 | 7 |
| Somerton and Frome | 52 | 21 | 21 | 5 | 53 | 20 | 21 | 5 |
| South Dorset | 51 | 21 | 20 | 7 | 54 | 20 | 20 | 7 |
| South East Cornwall | 55 | 21 | 18 | 6 | 55 | 21 | 18 | 6 |
| South Swindon | 40 | 24 | 26 | 8 | 40 | 22 | 27 | 9 |
| South West Devon | 52 | 23 | 18 | 6 | 53 | 21 | 19 | 6 |
| St Ives | 48 | 21 | 20 | 9 | 53 | 19 | 18 | 9 |
| Stroud | 46 | 24 | 22 | 7 | 45 | 26 | 22 | 7 |
| Taunton | 48 | 24 | 23 | 4 | 47 | 25 | 23 | 5 |
| Teignbridge | 54 | 22 | 17 | 6 | 52 | 23 | 18 | 7 |
| Tewkesbury | 44 | 22 | 23 | 9 | 44 | 22 | 23 | 9 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 53 | 20 | 19 | 7 | 53 | 20 | 19 | 8 |
| Torbay | 48 | 21 | 21 | 9 | 49 | 20 | 20 | 10 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 45 | 21 | 24 | 9 | 47 | 19 | 22 | 10 |
| Totnes | 52 | 19 | 21 | 7 | 54 | 19 | 18 | 9 |
| Truro and St Austell | 53 | 20 | 18 | 7 | 53 | 20 | 19 | 7 |
| Wansdyke | 51 | 22 | 21 | 5 | 51 | 21 | 21 | 6 |
| Wells | 51 | 21 | 22 | 5 | 51 | 21 | 20 | 6 |
| West Dorset | 55 | 22 | 17 | 5 | 58 | 21 | 16 | 5 |
| Westbury | 45 | 22 | 23 | 9 | 45 | 22 | 23 | 10 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 45 | 22 | 25 | 7 | 46 | 23 | 23 | 8 |
| Woodspring | 55 | 22 | 19 | 3 | 57 | 22 | 17 | 4 |
| Yeovil | 56 | 21 | 21 | 2 | 56 | 23 | 18 | 3 |

*Percentage*

| | *November 2009* | | | | *December 2009* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim:* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| Bath | 50 | 23 | 17 | 8 | 50 | 23 | 17 | 8 |
| Bournemouth East | 48 | 22 | 21 | 8 | 47 | 23 | 20 | 10 |
| Bournemouth West | 49 | 20 | 22 | 8 | 47 | 22 | 21 | 9 |
| Bridgwater | 55 | 21 | 17 | 7 | 55 | 21 | 17 | 7 |
| Bristol East | 44 | 22 | 24 | 10 | 43 | 23 | 23 | 11 |
| Bristol North West | 44 | 21 | 23 | 11 | 43 | 23 | 22 | 11 |
| Bristol South | 44 | 24 | 23 | 9 | 43 | 25 | 23 | 10 |
| Bristol West | 49 | 22 | 18 | 9 | 46 | 24 | 19 | 10 |
| Cheltenham | 38 | 21 | 24 | 15 | 38 | 20 | 23 | 16 |
| Christchurch | 51 | 23 | 19 | 7 | 50 | 23 | 18 | 8 |
| Cotswold | 47 | 22 | 22 | 8 | 44 | 25 | 21 | 9 |
| Devizes | 47 | 21 | 20 | 9 | 45 | 24 | 19 | 10 |
| East Devon | 57 | 20 | 16 | 7 | 56 | 22 | 15 | 7 |
| Exeter | 55 | 20 | 16 | 9 | 52 | 22 | 17 | 9 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 53 | 20 | 17 | 9 | 52 | 22 | 16 | 9 |
| Forest of Dean | 42 | 22 | 22 | 13 | 43 | 21 | 20 | 15 |
| Gloucester | 41 | 22 | 23 | 13 | 41 | 21 | 23 | 14 |
| Kingswood | 46 | 24 | 22 | 8 | 44 | 25 | 21 | 10 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 55 | 21 | 18 | 6 | 52 | 23 | 17 | 7 |
| North Cornwall | 63 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 61 | 18 | 13 | 7 |
| North Devon | 63 | 18 | 13 | 5 | 65 | 19 | 11 | 6 |
| North Dorset | 54 | 21 | 18 | 6 | 54 | 21 | 18 | 7 |
| North Swindon | 42 | 21 | 26 | 9 | 42 | 21 | 25 | 10 |
| North Wiltshire | 46 | 23 | 20 | 10 | 45 | 23 | 19 | 12 |
| Northavon | 51 | 22 | 20 | 7 | 50 | 23 | 19 | 8 |

*Percentage*

| | *November 2009* | | | | *December 2009* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim:* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 46 | 19 | 21 | 10 | 43 | 22 | 20 | 11 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 42 | 20 | 22 | 11 | 40 | 22 | 21 | 12 |
| Poole | 51 | 22 | 21 | 7 | 51 | 21 | 20 | 8 |
| Salisbury | 50 | 23 | 19 | 8 | 48 | 24 | 19 | 9 |
| Somerton and Frome | 52 | 24 | 18 | 6 | 50 | 25 | 18 | 7 |
| South Dorset | 58 | 18 | 15 | 7 | 59 | 19 | 15 | 7 |
| South East Cornwall | 57 | 22 | 15 | 6 | 56 | 22 | 14 | 6 |
| South Swindon | 40 | 22 | 25 | 11 | 40 | 21 | 25 | 12 |
| South West Devon | 52 | 21 | 20 | 6 | 51 | 21 | 20 | 7 |
| St Ives | 57 | 17 | 16 | 8 | 58 | 18 | 15 | 8 |
| Stroud | 45 | 25 | 21 | 8 | 44 | 24 | 22 | 9 |
| Taunton | 47 | 22 | 24 | 6 | 47 | 22 | 23 | 7 |
| Teignbridge | 54 | 21 | 15 | 8 | 54 | 22 | 15 | 8 |
| Tewkesbury | 44 | 22 | 22 | 10 | 43 | 21 | 24 | 10 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 52 | 21 | 17 | 9 | 51 | 23 | 16 | 10 |
| Torbay | 49 | 21 | 19 | 10 | 46 | 23 | 19 | 10 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 51 | 19 | 17 | 11 | 49 | 21 | 17 | 12 |
| Totnes | 55 | 21 | 15 | 9 | 53 | 21 | 15 | 10 |
| Truro and St Austell | 58 | 17 | 16 | 7 | 58 | 20 | 14 | 7 |
| Wansdyke | 51 | 22 | 19 | 8 | 50 | 24 | 17 | 8 |
| Wells | 52 | 22 | 18 | 8 | 51 | 23 | 17 | 8 |
| West Dorset | 57 | 22 | 16 | 5 | 56 | 23 | 16 | 6 |
| Westbury | 44 | 22 | 22 | 11 | 43 | 22 | 23 | 12 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 46 | 22 | 21 | 9 | 46 | 23 | 20 | 10 |
| Woodspring | 59 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 56 | 23 | 15 | 6 |
| Yeovil | 54 | 25 | 18 | 3 | 54 | 25 | 17 | 4 |

[1] Data on duration of claim is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims

*Note:*

Data rounded to nearest five.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

## TRANSPORT

### British Transport Police: Fixed Penalties

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been raised by each category of fixed penalty notice issued by the British Transport Police in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales since 2006. [314346]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The British Transport Police (BTP) have powers to issue two types of fixed penalty, fixed penalty notices (FPNs) and penalty notices for disorder (PNDs). FPNs are primarily for road traffic offences; the BTP rarely prosecute for these offences and, where they do, they do so by summons rather than fixed penalty.

The amounts received by the BTP in respect of PNDs issued in England and Wales are as follows.

| | *£50 fines* | *£80 fines* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 23400 | 85920 | 109320 |
| 2007 | 37150 | 143120 | 180270 |
| 2008 | 37900 | 131600 | 169500 |
| 2009 | 42500 | 146640 | 189140 |

Information on the split between penalty notices issued in England and those issued in Wales is not held centrally.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many national concessionary bus passes for those over the age of 60 years have been issued to residents of *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North-East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area in each year since they were introduced; [315240]

(2) how many national concessionary bus passes for people with disabilities have been issued to residents of *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North-East

Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area in each year since such passes were introduced. [315241]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Cleethorpes is part of the North-East Lincolnshire county concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 12 January 2010, the North-East Lincolnshire county scheme had issued 4,1667 smartcard concessionary passes. As of the same date, the North Lincolnshire county scheme had issued 32,903 smartcard concessionary passes. In both cases, this includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over. The Department only holds headline figures for number of passes issued.

## Consultants: Fees and Charges

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely level of spending by his Department on consultancy fees in the next five years; and what projects he anticipates employing consultants on. [314339]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not have an estimate of spending on consultancy fees in the next five years, as the Department's business plan for 2010-11 has yet to be finalised, and departmental budgets for 2011-12 onwards will be set at the next spending review.

However, the Department is committed to contributing to the Smarter Government savings announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report, which include cutting consultancy spend by 50 per cent. by 2012-13.

## Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315137]

**Chris Mole:** The Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments will aim to pay invoices within 10 days. The Department and its agencies commenced reporting of 10-day payment performance in January 2009.

In January 2009, 61.19 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. The latest available data are for December 2009, when 92.62 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. This means that payment performance has increased by 31.43 per cent. points over this period.

We do not differentiate payments by supplier size as we have determined to pay all suppliers within 10 days.

## Departmental Disclosure of Information

**David Davis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313270]

**Chris Mole:** Agencies/non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) that have Crown status, make most of their information available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence. Government trading funds are able under their trading fund status to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This covers information and its supply provided to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals. In common with other government policy, some information is sold as priced publications.

Following are details about selling of information by Department for Transport agencies and NDPBs:

*Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)*

The MCA does sell information to companies and members of the public. For example, on request, information from the MCA's Public Register of UK ships and information that relates to search and rescue incidents from the MCA's systems is sold, all in compliance with the Data Protection Act.

*Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)*

VCA has the remit to meet its full costs from earned income, and operates in a competitive market. VCA sells type approval legislation and its associated interpretations.

*Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)*

DVLA is a Government trading fund which has authority to charge for the services it provides in order to cover its costs. This covers information supplied to commercial organisations and individuals.

*Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)*

VOSA does not currently sell information on a commercial basis. Some information has been provided to the agency's commercial customers on a cost recovery basis. The agency is assessing the opportunity and business case for further use of its information assets.

*Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)*

The GCDA does not sell information on a commercial basis to companies or individuals in the private sector and other organisations.

*The Driving Standards Agency (DSA)*

DSA licenses its theory test item banks and hazard perception film clips to all sectors under the Information Fair Trader Scheme, regulated by the Office of Public Sector Information. The Stationery Office Ltd. (a private sector publisher) currently publishes DSA official learning materials and "The Official Highway Code". DSA receives a royalty on sales as part of the contract price.

*The Highways Agency (HA)*

The HA charges an access fee for video images and stills from the road network videos to various media companies, e.g. the BBC. The charge is minimal and is based on recovery of the costs of supplying the images.

*Non-departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs)*

The Department for Transport is also responsible for 12 NDPBs. Of these, four are advisory or tribunal bodies; four are Executive NDPBs which do not sell information on a commercial basis; four are classified as public corporations. These are the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA); the Northern Lighthouse Board and

Trinity House; Trust Ports. The public corporations receive most of their income from selling goods and services rather than from grant or voted supply.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313234]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport and its agencies has not managed out any staff in financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 inclusive. In the financial year 2009-10 there are three staff in transition prior to being redeployed within the civil service. The average time for being in transition is two months. The average cost in this financial year is £28,640. There are no staff in transition over six months.

### First Capital Connect: Industrial Action

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to commuters of the recent industrial action by drivers on First Capital Connect Thameslink services. [314242]

**Chris Mole:** This information is not collected by the Department for Transport.

### Lorry Drivers

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of heavy trucks and lorry drivers *(a)* employed and *(b)* self-employed in the UK; what estimate he has made of the average hours worked by each category of driver in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the average (i) hourly and (ii) weekly earnings of heavy truck and lorry drivers in the latest period for which figures are available. [314739]

**Paul Clark:** The following table gives the numbers of heavy goods vehicle (HGV[1]) drivers who are *(a)* employed and *(b)* self employed, their hours worked, and hourly and weekly earnings during September 2009 in the United Kingdom.

[1] In the 'Freight Transport by Road' industry class.

| | *HGV drivers*[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Employed* | *Self employed* |
| Number | 109,113 | 16,417 |
| Usual paid hours worked per week (mean) | 51 | 50 |
| Average gross weekly pay (£) | 493 | n/a |
| Average gross hourly pay (£) | 9.59 | n/a |

n/a = Pay information is only available for employees

[1] This includes LGV drivers and other drivers under the SOC2000 (Standard Occupational Classification 2000) 8211 category.

*Source:*

ONS Labour Force Survey, July-September 2009

### Railways: Bus Services

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of rail replacement bus services that have been in operation for longer than *(a)* one week, *(b)* one month and *(c)* one year; and what the cost has been of providing such services. [314347]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* Rail services can be subject to amendment due to planned infrastructure improvements or maintenance works undertaken by Network Rail, especially at weekends and rail replacement bus services will often be provided as required to maintain passenger journey opportunities. Where substantial programmes of these works are being undertaken, these may, on occasion, take longer than one week.

Responsibility for the provision of these services lies with train operators and the Department does not hold detailed data on the numbers or costs of such rail replacement bus services.

There are a very small number of buses providing rail replacement services on the national network, as part of the specification for franchised passenger services provided by certain rail operators. The cost of these services are included within the overall financial settlement between the Department and the relevant train operator. The exception to this is the provision of a rail replacement bus service between Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road, which has been operated since December 2008. In relation to the monthly costs, I refer the hon. Member to the approximate January 2009 figures set out in the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1192-3W.

### Railways: Franchises

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the financial costs incurred by his Department when re-tendering each rail franchise since 2005. [314278]

**Chris Mole:** The total costs incurred by the Department for Transport in designing and tendering rail franchises from 2005-09 were £33.8 million, which comprises the following:

> Departmental staff, administration and non-franchise specific adviser costs for undertaking the specification, procurement and review of franchising documentation over this five year period was £15.3 million. To allocate such costs by franchise would incur disproportionate cost.

External adviser costs for the franchises let by the Department 2005-09 were as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Southeastern[1] | 2.0 |
| Thameslink[1] | 1.4 |
| Greater Western[1] | 1.3 |
| South Western | 2.2 |
| London Midland | 2.9 |
| East Midlands | 2.6 |
| Cross Country | 3.2 |
| Intercity East Coast (2007) | 1.3 |
| Southern | 1.6 |

[1] Replacement initiated by the Strategic Rail Authority, concluded by the Department, the costs for which are identified.

### Railways: Tickets

**Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to direct train operating companies to offer passengers the option of purchasing multiple tickets for their journeys. [300530]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport requires that operators sell combinations of tickets where these are requested, though there is no obligation to offer them as there is an almost infinite number of permutations of fares combinations. It is for the train operating companies themselves to consider whether and to what extent they should promote the practice of combining two or more tickets.

**Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to direct train operating companies to offer passengers the cheapest possible fare for their journeys, irrespective of the number of tickets required to obtain such a fare. [300531]

**Chris Mole:** A requirement already exists under the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement for train operators accurately to sell purchasers the most appropriate fare for the end to end journey they described, stressing either cost or convenience as the passenger determines.

**Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to raise awareness among rail passengers of the financial benefits of purchasing multiple tickets for the same journey. [300532]

**Chris Mole:** Such promotional activity is for the train operators themselves or for bodies such as the two statutory organisations representing passengers, Passenger Focus and London TravelWatch, or other non-statutory organisations involved in consumer issues.

### Railways: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans there are to introduce direct train services from London to *(a)* Lincoln and *(b)* Cleethorpes. [315246]

**Chris Mole:** Consultation for the May 2011 East Coast timetable is under way. It is currently envisaged that there will be a train every two hours from London Kings Cross to Lincoln and vice versa. As part of the consultation and evaluation process for the new Intercity East Coast franchise, due to start in autumn 2011, the Department for Transport will investigate the viability of specifying that some services are extended to and from Cleethorpes.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made in reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents involving cars and motorcyclists over the last three years. [314503]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is shown in the following table. These figures include all killed and seriously injured casualties in these accidents, not just occupants of the specified vehicles.

*Reported killed or seriously injured road-casualties in accidents involving cars and motorcycles: GB 2006-08*

| | *Accident year* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| *Number of killed or seriously injured casualties in:* | | | |
| All accidents involving a car | 26,713 | 25,468 | 23,724 |
| All accidents involving a motorcycle | 6,992 | 7,247 | 6,457 |
| All accidents involving a car and a motorcycle | 4,390 | 4,589 | 3,991 |
| *Percentage change from previous year:* | | | |
| All accidents involving a car | -1.7 | -4.7 | -6.8 |
| All accidents involving a motorcycle | 0.0 | 3.6 | -10.9 |
| All accidents involving a car and a motorcycle | -2.4 | 4.5 | -13.0 |

The Department for Transport consulted in 2009 on a new road safety strategy for the next two decades, "A Safer Way: Consultation on making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World"[2]. This consultation identified protecting motorcyclists as one of a number of key road safety challenges and proposed specific measures, as well as initiatives to tackle safety on rural roads, where motorcyclists are at particular risk. The new road safety strategy will be published following the completion of the North Review into drug and drink driving law.

The Government's Motorcycling Strategy sets out a range of measures to improve the safety of all powered two-wheel users. It was published in February 2005 and a revised action plan was issued in June 2008. This includes THINK! publicity for powered two wheelers and other road users, improvements to rider training, a safer road environment and safer vehicles and equipment. We are currently working with stakeholders on revising the Motorcycle Strategy.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many road traffic accidents in Torbay constituency involved loss of life in each of the last five years; [314613]

(2) how many road traffic accidents there were in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Torbay constituency in each of the last five years; how many such accidents involved (i) motorcyclists and (ii) cyclists in each such year; and how many accidents of each type resulted in loss of life in each such year. [314715]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

*Reported personal injury road accidents in Devon county and Torbay parliamentary constituency[1]: 2004-08*

| | *Accident year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| *Devon county* | | | | | |
| All accidents | 3,797 | 4,002 | 3,822 | 3,782 | 3,191 |

*Reported personal injury road accidents in Devon county and Torbay parliamentary constituency[1]: 2004-08*

| | *Accident year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| All accidents involving a motorcycle[2] | 556 | 560 | 469 | 513 | 465 |
| All accidents involving a pedal cycle[2] | 279 | 282 | 275 | 260 | 259 |
| | | | | | |
| All fatal accidents | 41 | 54 | 41 | 53 | 40 |
| All fatal accidents involving a motorcycle[2] | 15 | 17 | 5 | 16 | 11 |
| All fatal accidents involving a pedal cycle[2] | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| | | | | | |
| *Torbay parliamentary constituency* | | | | | |
| All accidents | 347 | 328 | 301 | 291 | 283 |
| All accidents involving a motorcycle[2] | 53 | 52 | 36 | 49 | 42 |
| All accidents involving a pedal cycle[2] | 25 | 14 | 22 | 17 | 24 |
| | | | | | |
| All fatal accidents | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| All fatal accidents involving a motorcycle[2] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| All fatal accidents involving a pedal cycle[2] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries. [2] Includes accidents involving both motorcycles and pedal cycles. There were two such accidents in Devon in 2008.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the accident cluster sites are in the *(a)* St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and *(b)* Mid Suffolk District Council area. [314866]

**Paul Clark:** There is no standard definition for an accident cluster site. The assessment of local accident cluster sites is a matter for the relevant local highway authorities.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were involving drivers under the age of 21 years in (i) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314874]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities, involving at least one driver[1] aged under 21 years: 1997 to 2008*

| | *Suffolk* | | *Bury St. Edmunds[2]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Accidents* | *Fatalities* | *Accidents* | *Fatalities* |
| 1997 | 379 | 7 | 72 | 2 |
| 1998 | 377 | 3 | 70 | 1 |
| 1999 | 386 | 6 | 47 | 1 |
| 2000 | 375 | 12 | 62 | 2 |
| 2001 | 384 | 8 | 55 | 0 |
| 2002 | 377 | 5 | 48 | 1 |
| 2003 | 398 | 9 | 69 | 0 |
| 2004 | 367 | 7 | 45 | 0 |
| 2005 | 423 | 4 | 71 | 1 |
| 2006 | 367 | 17 | 58 | 0 |
| 2007 | 372 | 5 | 53 | 0 |
| 2008 | 345 | 3 | 45 | 0 |

[1] Car, goods vehicle, bus and coach drivers.
[2] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities have occurred (i) on the A14 and (ii) elsewhere in Suffolk between the hours of 8pm and 8am in each year since 1997. [314877]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Reported personal injury road accidents[1] and fatalities[2] occurring between the hours of 20.00 and 08.00: 1997 to 2008*

| | *Suffolk (excluding A14)* | | *A14 (Suffolk section)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Accidents* | *Fatalities* | *Accidents* | *Fatalities* |
| 1997 | 519 | 15 | 29 | 3 |
| 1998 | 526 | 4 | 23 | 1 |
| 1999 | 518 | 22 | 26 | 1 |
| 2000 | 502 | 21 | 33 | 4 |
| 2001 | 553 | 18 | 39 | 5 |
| 2002 | 543 | 19 | 50 | 3 |
| 2003 | 566 | 20 | 36 | 1 |
| 2004 | 518 | 16 | 37 | 3 |
| 2005 | 530 | 19 | 42 | 2 |
| 2006 | 484 | 19 | 37 | 2 |
| 2007 | 480 | 13 | 39 | 3 |
| 2008 | 431 | 13 | 29 | 0 |

[1] Reported accidents in which at least one person was injured.
[2] Casualties in road accidents who were fatally injured.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents have occurred in Suffolk on each day of the week in each year since 1997. [314878]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*Reported personal injury road accidents in Suffolk by day of week: 1997 to 2008*

*Number of accidents[1]*

| *Year of accident* | *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* | *Saturday* | *Sunday* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 308 | 328 | 357 | 323 | 385 | 295 | 228 | 2,224 |
| 1998 | 328 | 337 | 331 | 310 | 374 | 330 | 241 | 2,251 |
| 1999 | 339 | 340 | 327 | 327 | 362 | 314 | 289 | 2,298 |
| 2000 | 309 | 319 | 334 | 355 | 427 | 327 | 241 | 2,312 |

*Reported personal injury road accidents in Suffolk by day of week: 1997 to 2008*

| *Year of accident* | *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* | *Saturday* | *Number of accidents*<br>*Sunday* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 382 | 348 | 338 | 328 | 386 | 332 | 242 | 2,356 |
| 2002 | 335 | 328 | 314 | 375 | 380 | 321 | 247 | 2,300 |
| 2003 | 356 | 343 | 308 | 356 | 393 | 298 | 287 | 2,341 |
| 2004 | 289 | 310 | 349 | 374 | 353 | 301 | 244 | 2,220 |
| 2005 | 337 | 319 | 361 | 325 | 377 | 283 | 235 | 2,237 |
| 2006 | 313 | 283 | 306 | 313 | 390 | 265 | 217 | 2,087 |
| 2007 | 320 | 330 | 309 | 297 | 341 | 263 | 216 | 2,076 |
| 2008 | 302 | 289 | 346 | 326 | 341 | 236 | 221 | 2,061 |

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents have occurred on the A14 in Suffolk on each day of the week in each year since 1997. [314879]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*Reported personal injury road accidents on the A14 in Suffolk by day of week: 1997 to 2008*

|  | *Number of accidents* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* | *Saturday* | *Sunday* | *Total* |
| 1997 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 15 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 128 |
| 1998 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 11 | 22 | 18 | 18 | 123 |
| 1999 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 122 |
| 2000 | 19 | 27 | 24 | 28 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 138 |
| 2001 | 17 | 17 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 16 | 138 |
| 2002 | 26 | 28 | 20 | 20 | 27 | 21 | 15 | 157 |
| 2003 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 128 |
| 2004 | 17 | 20 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 143 |
| 2005 | 18 | 23 | 33 | 16 | 28 | 15 | 17 | 150 |
| 2006 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 12 | 20 | 11 | 9 | 119 |
| 2007 | 13 | 23 | 18 | 24 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 126 |
| 2008 | 25 | 15 | 24 | 20 | 25 | 4 | 13 | 126 |

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in Milton Keynes on average on each day of the week in each year since 1997. [315368]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*The average number of reported personal injury road accidents in Milton Keynes (unitary authority) on each day of the week: 1997 to 2008*

|  | *Average number of accidents* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* | *Saturday* | *Sunday* | *Total number of accidents* |
| 1997 | 2.79 | 2.71 | 3.34 | 2.54 | 2.96 | 2.48 | 1.90 | 977 |
| 1998 | 2.75 | 3.29 | 2.73 | 2.81 | 2.87 | 1.98 | 2.35 | 979 |
| 1999 | 2.83 | 2.85 | 2.58 | 2.71 | 3.36 | 2.31 | 1.65 | 954 |
| 2000 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.71 | 3.02 | 3.65 | 2.26 | 1.91 | 1,011 |
| 2001 | 2.45 | 2.71 | 2.83 | 2.44 | 3.10 | 2.29 | 2.02 | 930 |
| 2002 | 2.17 | 2.21 | 2.50 | 2.62 | 3.06 | 2.12 | 1.87 | 862 |
| 2003 | 2.67 | 2.44 | 1.98 | 2.56 | 2.62 | 2.10 | 1.60 | 832 |
| 2004 | 2.37 | 2.31 | 2.35 | 2.49 | 2.75 | 1.98 | 1.69 | 834 |
| 2005 | 2.33 | 2.63 | 2.60 | 2.65 | 3.06 | 1.77 | 1.62 | 868 |
| 2006 | 2.25 | 2.87 | 2.58 | 2.44 | 3.25 | 2.08 | 1.89 | 904 |
| 2007 | 2.26 | 2.40 | 2.21 | 2.37 | 2.42 | 2.08 | 1.56 | 798 |
| 2008 | 2.04 | 2.28 | 2.42 | 2.19 | 2.38 | 1.96 | 1.31 | 763 |

### Rolling Stock: Procurement

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of financial saving that would result from the cancellation of the Inter-City Express Programme. [314341]

**Chris Mole:** We intend to place appropriate financial information from the contract with Agility Trains which is currently commercially confidential, in the public domain following financial close.

### Speed Limits: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of speed cameras in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [314762]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport only holds information about the number of safety camera sites operating within the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. There were 294 speed camera sites (including average speed cameras) operating in London in 2001 and 439 when the programme ended in 2007.

Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. Separate information for each London borough is not held by the Department, but may be held by the London Safety Camera Partnership along with details regarding the current number of sites.

### Transport: Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of any projects his Department has considered cancelling in each of the last five years, together with any calculations of the estimated costs or savings likely to result from each. [314342]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport routinely reviews the business cases of its projects at a number of pre-defined stages in their development, in accordance with project management best practice. Projects are reviewed at each stage on the basis of their projected benefits, value for money and affordability. A project is therefore not regarded as either 'approved' or 'cancelled' until a final decision stage is reached.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Transcription Services

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much 10 Downing Street spent on transcription services to each supplier in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 to date; [305824]

(2) what transcripts have been provided for 10 Downing Street by Global Lingo since March 2009; what each transcript's date of production was; and what the cost was to the public purse of each transcript; [305825]

(3) on what contractual basis Global Lingo provide transcription services to 10 Downing Street; [305826]

(4) what system was in place for the provision of transcripts of 10 Downing Street events before March 2009. [305827]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office. Information relating to expenditure incurred on transcription services is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office does not have any contractual agreements with Global Lingo.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Apprentices

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on the apprenticeship scheme associated with the London 2012 Olympics. [310361]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families expect to spend over £1 billion on apprenticeships this year. The total cost of delivering apprenticeships associated with the London 2012 Olympics is not available. Training costs of apprenticeship frameworks funded through the National Apprenticeship Service and associated with the Olympics are not separately identifiable from those not connected with the Olympics.

Olympic development apprenticeships are also being supported by a number of other partners including the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), ConstructionSkills and individual colleges and training providers. The ODA has contributed £275,000 towards the apprenticeship programme, while ConstructionSkills will be providing an employer support contribution of £319,000 over a two year programme through the National Construction College.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### GCSE: Disadvantaged

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals at the end of key stage 4 did not achieve an A* to C grade at GCSE in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) history, (iv) French and (v) physics in (A) the earliest year and (B) the most recent year for which figures are available. [310105]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson** *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: Pupil level attainment data by free school meal eligibility and ethnicity is only available from 2003 onwards. The information requested is presented in the following table and is for maintained schools only.

| *Subject* | *Number of white pupils' eligible for free-school meals entered for subject not achieving a GCSE grade A*-C* | | *Percentage of white pupils eligible for free-school meals entered for subject not achieving a GCSE grade A*-C* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Boys* | *Girls* | *Boys* | *Girls* |
| *2003* | | | | |
| English | 19,586 | 16,046 | 76.8 | 61.7 |
| Mathematics | 21,837 | 21,423 | 81.8 | 81.5 |
| History | 3,631 | 3,656 | 71.5 | 67.9 |
| French | 7,391 | 8,011 | 86.5 | 75.5 |
| Physics | 119 | 131 | 32.6 | 43.1 |
| *2009* | | | | |
| English | 15,398 | 13,245 | 69.8 | 57.4 |
| Mathematics | 14,748 | 15,766 | 65.2 | 68.4 |
| History | 2,791 | 2,557 | 64.5 | 58.7 |

| *Subject* | *Number of white pupils[1] eligible for free-school meals entered for subject not achieving a GCSE grade A*-C* | | *Percentage of white pupils eligible for free-school meals entered for subject not achieving a GCSE grade A*-C* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Boys* | *Girls* | *Boys* | *Girls* |
| French | 1,450 | 2,019 | 63.6 | 57.7 |
| Physics | 164 | 145 | 17.5 | 19.0 |

[1] Figures for 2003 are based on pupils aged 15 and 2009 figures are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] Figures for 2009 are provisional.

*Source:*

National Pupil Database

## Parents: Advisory Services

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many telephone calls have been *(a)* received and *(b)* answered by the Parent Know How helplines in each month since such helplines were established; [309519]

(2) how much has been spent on creating and maintaining the Parent Know How online directory and website; [309520]

(3) how many unique visitors have been received by the Parent Know How online directory in each month since its creation; [309521]

(4) how much has been spent on the Parent Know How *(a)* publications, *(b)* video and audio content and *(c)* social networking and virtual offices in each year since the inception of that service; [309522]

(5) how much has been paid to external consultants and advisers for work relating to the Parent Know How service in each month since the inception of that service. [309523]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Under our Parent Know How programme we are funding seven third sector organisations to provide helpline support for parents in England.

Management data, including the number of telephone calls received and answered by the helplines, were collected on a quarterly basis in the first year (1 April 2008-31 March 2009). In the current year, we are now collecting those data on a monthly basis. The following table shows a breakdown of the number of recorded calls received and answered by each helpline between 1 April 2008 and 30 November 2009.

*2008-09 Recorded calls received*

| *Helpline* | *Advisory Centre for Education* | *Contact a Family* | *Children's Legal Centre* | *Family Rights Group* | *Gingerbread* | *Parentline Plus* | *Young Minds* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q1 | 33,395 | 4,361 | 4,978 | 6,498 | 2,544 | 47,033 | 2,502 |
| Q2 | 10,669 | 6,598 | 6,752 | 5,560 | 2,923 | 40,140 | 2,018 |
| Q3 | 15,249 | 4,575 | 7,070 | 4,211 | 2,434 | 39,266 | 2,437 |
| Q4 | 21,298 | 5,815 | 9,008 | 6,957 | 3,095 | 39,430 | 2,868 |
| Totals | 80,611 | 21,349 | 27,808 | 23,226 | 10,996 | 165,869 | 9,825 |
| Overall total | | | | 339,684 | | | |

*2009-10: Recorded calls received to 30 November*

| *Helpline* | *Advisory Centre for Education* | *Contact a Family* | *Children's Legal Centre* | *Family Rights Group* | *Gingerbread* | *Parentline Plus* | *Young Minds* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 7,476 | 1,427 | 2,043 | 1,861 | 847 | 12,322 | 599 |
| May | 7,637 | 1,329 | 1,819 | 2,087 | 724 | 13,511 | 678 |
| June | 6,359 | 1,336 | 1,938 | 2,219 | 363 | 11,970 | 778 |
| July | 4,202 | 1,165 | 2,420 | 1,857 | 920 | 13,169 | 904 |
| August | 1,023 | 1,361 | 1,188 | 1,145 | 857 | 11,420 | 526 |
| September | 3,578 | 1,428 | 2,066 | 41,562 | 1,019 | 12,768 | 795 |
| October | 4,006 | 1,418 | 2,342 | 1,057 | 1,030 | 12,064 | 914 |
| November | 3,918 | 1,572 | 1,915 | 1,292 | 970 | 11,466 | 823 |
| Totals | 38,199 | 11,036 | 15,731 | 13,0806 | 730 | 98,690 | 6,017 |
| Overall total | | | | 189,483 | | | |

*2008-09: calls answered*

| *Helpline* | *Advisory Centre for Education* | *Contact a Family* | *Children's Legal Centre* | *Family Rights Group* | *Gingerbread* | *Parentline Plus* | *Young Minds* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q1 | 1,903 | 2,051 | 1,291 | 875 | 1,376 | 26,967 | 1,206 |
| Q2 | 1,521 | 3,182 | 1,501 | 906 | 1,317 | 23,086 | 1,123 |
| Q3 | 1,741 | 2,401 | 1,554 | 996 | 1,094 | 21,738 | 1,380 |
| Q4 | 2,798 | 2,421 | 1,740 | 1,412 | 1,395 | 21,914 | 1,626 |
| Totals | 7,963 | 10,055 | 6,086 | 4,189 | 5,182 | 93,705 | 5,335 |
| Overall total | | | | 132,515 | | | |

*2009-10: Calls answered by 30 November*

| *Helpline* | *Advisory Centre for Education* | *Contact a Family* | *Children's Legal Centre* | *Family Rights Group* | *Gingerbread* | *Parentline Plus* | *Young Minds* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 700 | 709 | 551 | 396 | 350 | 6,806 | 339 |
| May | 760 | 755 | 722 | 364 | 295 | 7,342 | 309 |
| June | 1,063 | 972 | 945 | 337 | 115 | 7,056 | 392 |

*2009-10: Calls answered by 30 November*

| *Helpline* | *Advisory Centre for Education* | *Contact a Family* | *Children's Legal Centre* | *Family Rights Group* | *Gingerbread* | *Parentline Plus* | *Young Minds* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July | 897 | 713 | 628 | 309 | 409 | 7,226 | 452 |
| August | 360 | 710 | 751 | 227 | 335 | 7,124 | 256 |
| September | 1,186 | 734 | 906 | 362 | 617 | 6,703 | 442 |
| October | 938 | 728 | 806 | 382 | 573 | 6,965 | 440 |
| November | 1,069 | 712 | 725 | 344 | 660 | 6,799 | 460 |
| Totals | 6,973 | 6,033 | 6,034 | 2,721 | 3,354 | 56,021 | 3,090 |
| Overall total | | | | 84,226 | | | |

We do not have details on the number of unique visitors using the Parent Know How Directory since it does not have its own website. The Directory is published on various websites that are used by parents, including Directgov, DadTalk and Parentline Plus. The number of hits on the system that feeds data to all the sites that publish the Parent Know How Directory currently averages 52,000 each day. In the last financial year (2008-09) £6,627,000 was spent on the Directory—which includes £5.65 millon in grants to local authorities to enable them to develop their own local databases of family service information. In this financial year (2009-10) we anticipate spending £1,500,000.

A range of organisations are funded under the Parent Know How programme to deliver different services to support parents.

At any time these individual organisations may be delivering that support via *(a)* publications, *(b)* video and audio content or *(c)* social networking—as well as telephone helplines and websites. We do not hold the information to accurately disaggregate the spending on each of these activities from the overall funding for each of these organisations. But the table below sets out the costs for these activities, for each year from April 2008 where this can be clearly identified from the information held.

*2008-09*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Publications | 60,824 |
| Video and audió content | 46,616 |
| Social networking and virtual offices | 4,155,298 |

*2009-10: (1 April-14 December 2009)*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Publications | 93,349 |
| Video and audio content | 159,933 |
| Social networking and virtual offices | 3,877,881 |

The table as follows sets out how much has been paid to external consultants and advisers each month since the Parent Know How programme started in 2008:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April 2008 | 408,384 |
| May 2008 | 433,334 |
| June 2008 | 530,748 |
| July 2008 | 408,478 |
| August 2008 | 495,923 |
| September 2008 | 428,055 |
| October 2008 | 340,361 |
| November 2008 | 154,646 |
| December 2008 | 119,266 |
| January 2009 | 143,440 |
| February 2009 | 151,894 |
| March 2009 | 199,822 |
| April 2009 | 196,782 |
| May 2009 | 161,776 |
| June 2009 | 189,816 |
| July 2009 | 172,173 |
| August 2009 | 162,932 |
| September 2009 | 142,853 |
| October 2009 | 135,585 |
| November 2009 | 123,740 |
| Total | 5,100,008 |

## Pre-School Education: Finance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on extending the pre-school entitlement to two year-olds in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [304202]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Funding for the two-year-old offer of free early education and child care is provided to local authorities as a ring-fenced block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. The latest year for which audited spend is currently available is 2007-08. The spend for 2007-08 was £10,421,842. This was for the 32 local authorities in wave one of the programme.

The allocations for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

*Three year allocations for the two-year-old early learning and child care block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant*

| | *Two-year-old early learning and child care allocations (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 16,994,418 |
| 2009-10 | 58,203,890 |
| 2010-11 | 66,756,807 |

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 4 February 2010*

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Commission: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what payments the Electoral Commission has made to Pagoda Public Relations since 2000; for what services such payments were made; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts for such services. [315576]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it contracts Pagoda Public Relations to provide public relations services, primarily the Commission's press office function in Scotland and activity to promote voter registration. Payments since 2000 are detailed in the following table and include figures to the end of December 2009.

| *Financial year* | *Spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 19,583 |
| 2006-07 | 49,233 |
| 2007-08 | 93,493 |
| 2008-09 | 52,431 |
| 2009-10 | 26,833 |

Copies of the Commission's contracts with Pagoda Public Relations have been placed in the Library of the House.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England: Correspondence

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 392W, on museums and galleries: West Bromwich, when he expects the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East on the matter of PricewaterhouseCoopers; [315418]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 392W, on museums and galleries: West Bromwich, when he expects the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East on the matter of the Capital Projects Board; [315419]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 389W, on Arts Council England: consultants, when he expects the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East; [315430]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 391-92W, on museums and galleries: West Bromwich, when he expects the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East on the matter of Moss Cooper; [315431]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 386W, on Arts Council England: hospitality, when he expects the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East; [315432]

(6) pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 36W, on Arts Council England: advertising, when he expects the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East. [315442]

**Margaret Hodge:** The chief executive of Arts Council England will write shortly. Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Arts Council: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Arts Council spent on external public relations in each of the last five years; and what external public relations contracts it has placed for tender. [315215]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Arts: Economic Situation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest assessment is of the effects on the arts industries of the recession. [314766]

**Margaret Hodge:** The picture across the sector is mixed, but many organisations have performed excellently in tough economic conditions. London theatres demonstrated very positive returns for 2009, in large measure attributable to the excellent quality of the artistic product.

There are concerns over a decrease in business investment and in income from charitable trusts and foundations. To mitigate this, Arts Council England's sustain fund has made awards totalling £41 million to support 135 arts organisations through the recession. Government support including the Future Jobs Fund and funding for creative use of empty retail space, also supported by Arts Council Lottery funding, is significant in limiting the impact of this shortfall.

Local authorities will determine funding priorities according to local circumstance but I am confident that enlightened councils will continue to support the arts in recognition of their value and importance to local communities across the country.

### Arts: Redundancy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of the number of jobs in the arts industries lost as a consequence of the recession. [314767]

**Margaret Hodge:** My Department does not hold information on the number of jobs lost in the arts industries as a consequence of the recession.

### Arts: Young People

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* theatre, *(b)* opera, *(c)* musical and *(d)* film tickets for young people since 1997. [314890]

**Margaret Hodge:** The provision of tickets for young people to attend *(a)* theatre, *(b)* opera and *(c)* musicals is part of the 'A Night Less Ordinary' scheme which, in its first nine months, gave around 122,000 free tickets to young people. The scheme; launched in February 2009 and implemented by Arts Council England, costs £2.5million and is financed by my Department via additional capital grant in aid in 2009-10. *(d)* There are no current schemes offering free film tickets to young people.

### Libraries

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on programmes related to libraries in each year since 1997. [315010]

**Margaret Hodge:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 244W.

Further to this answer DCMS grant in aid funding for the British Library from 2007 to date was:

*British Library funding, incorporating resource and capital grant in aid*

| *Financial Year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 106,480 |
| 2008-09 | 106,974 |

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) provide funding in support of particular projects and programmes. The funding provided since 2007 was:

*MLA support for public libraries*

| *Financial Year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 873 |
| 2008-09 | 424.5 |

In addition in 2007 £80 million has been allocated to public libraries by the Big Lottery Fund for the Community Libraries Programme.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has policy responsibility for public libraries but core funding for public libraries is paid to the 151 library authorities in England as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Local authorities' net current expenditure on public libraries, as advised by DCLG, was:

*Net current expenditure (public libraries, England)*

| *Financial Year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 988,446 |
| 2008-09 | 1,003,988 |

### Museums and Galleries: Domestic Visits

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times a Minister in his Department has visited the *(a)* British Museum, *(b)* Natural History Museum and *(c)* Science Museum on official duties in the last 12 months. [314757]

**Margaret Hodge:** Ministers from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have visited the British Museum four times, the Natural History Museum eight times and the Science Museum once, on official duties in the last 12 months.

### Passports

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free passports have been issued under the Heroes Return scheme to residents of *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area in each year since such passports were introduced. [315239]

**Mr. Simon:** The free passport scheme is a matter for the Home Office.

The Heroes Return initiative is run by the Big Lottery Fund which allows world war two veterans from the UK, Channel Islands and Republic of Ireland to apply for travel and accommodation costs to visit the places where they saw active service. They can also receive funding to take part in an official commemoration in the UK.

### Public Libraries

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the average number of people in each age group who use a local library each month. [314753]

**Margaret Hodge:** The DCMS Taking Part survey records the proportion of the population in each age group who use libraries each year and the latest data is presented in the table. Taking Part cannot provide monthly data or the average number of people in each age group who use a local library.

*October 2008 to September 2009*

| *Age group (five bands)* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 16-24 | 34.8 |
| 25-44 | 40.3 |
| 45-64 | 38.8 |
| 65-74 | 40.3 |
| 75+ | 34.4 |
| Total | 38.5 |

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the use of public libraries. [314754]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Government's consultation on the public library service closed on 26 January and a policy statement is expected to report in the spring. It will set out the Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service and the necessary steps to achieve this vision.

There are a significant number of programmes funded by Government Departments, sponsored organisations and third sector partners which promote the increased use of public libraries: these include Bookstart, Book Ahead, Boys into Books, the Summer Reading Challenge, Booked Up, Fulfilling their Potential and the Vital Link.

The Big Lottery Fund's £80 million Community Libraries Programme is an investment across England to improve community learning opportunities through libraries. Part of this is offering the types of opportunities essential to the delivery of modern library services, including learning activities to attract new library users such as reading groups, writing groups, language classes, family learning activities, art and museum exhibitions, cultural activities, drama, information seminars and health initiatives.

### Royal Parks: Parking

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1042W, on Royal Parks: parking, when he plans to lay the statutory instruments required to implement parking charges in Bushy and Richmond parks. [315460]

**Margaret Hodge:** The statutory instrument required to implement parking charges in Bushy and Richmond Parks was laid on 1 February.

### Television: Licensing

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free television licences have been issued to residents of *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area in each year since such licences were introduced. [315237]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department does not hold the information. Free television licences for people aged 75 or over are issued by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is therefore a matter for the BBC.

I understand that the BBC does not break down the distribution of free licences by reference to parliamentary constituency or local authority area.

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many discounted television licences have been issued to blind and sight-impaired people resident in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area in each year since such licences were introduced. [315238]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department does not hold the information. Discounted television licences are administered for the blind and partly-sighted by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is therefore a matter for the BBC.

I understand that the BBC does not break down the distribution of free licences by reference to parliamentary constituency or local authority area.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Fuel Oil: Safety

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of EU regulations on the sulphur content of oil used in Aga ovens; and what assessment has been made of the costs of these regulations to owners of Agas. [313739]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels Directive (1999/32/EC as amended) aims to reduce air pollution by limiting sulphur dioxide emissions that can cause acid rain. The directive specifies that from January 2008 no person may use gas oil (which includes oil for domestic heating purposes) with a sulphur content greater than 0.1 per cent.

The Government have made no assessment of the effectiveness of this fuel in Aga ovens, nor of the costs to Aga owners.

### Fuel Poverty: Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Stroud constituency were in fuel poverty in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2009. [315882]

**Mr. Kidney:** The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 4,200 fuel-poor households in the Stroud constituency. In 2003 there were around 2,600 fuel-poor households in the Stroud constituency. Figures prior to 2003 are not available.

The methodology used for the 2006 work differs from that previously used, so care should be taken in comparing the fuel poverty levels in one area between 2003 and 2006.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Crisis Loans

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the amount spent by her Department on crisis loans on each day in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [313268]

**Helen Goodman:** The available information is in the following table.

*Crisis loans in Great Britain in 2008 and 2009*

*£ million*

| Calendar year | *Average gross expenditure per working day* | *Average recoveries per working day* | *Average net expenditure per working day* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 0.59 | 0.30 | 0.29 |
| 2009 | 0.87 | 0.44 | 0.43 |

Note:

The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in her Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305677]

**Yvette Cooper:** Expenditure in respect of new works, refurbishments and planned maintenance to Ministers' offices in the last year was £19,223.85.

### Post Office Card Account

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations her Department has received on the use of automated teller machines (ATMs) other than Bank of Ireland ATMs to access Post Office card accounts. [315511]

**Helen Goodman:** The Department has received representations about this from LINK.

### Social Security Benefits: Ex-servicemen

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (War Pension Disregard) (Amendment) Regulations 2009, (SI 2009 No. 3389), if she will take steps to ensure that local authorities disregard service attributable pensions in considering eligibility for housing and council tax benefit. [315748]

**Helen Goodman:** A mandatory £10 disregard of income from war pensions (war disablement pension, a pension to a war widow or war widower or a similar pension paid to a surviving civil partner), applies in the calculation of entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit. In addition, local authorities have discretionary powers to disregard some or all of income from war pensions, including service attributable pensions, once the mandatory disregard of £10.00 has been made. It is a matter for each authority to decide the extent to which they apply the additional disregard. We have recently issued guidance clarifying that service attributable pensions fall to be disregarded under the discretionary powers.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations her Department has received on the restoration of the link between salaries and pensions. [314918]

**Angela Eagle:** The Department has received a number of representations on restoring the earnings link to the basic state pension.

The basic state pension will increase in line with earnings, rather than prices, in the future. The exact date from which this will start has yet to be fixed, but it is expected to happen from 2012, or by the end of the next Parliament at the latest.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations her Department has received on expanding the age range for eligibility for winter fuel payments. [314917]

**Angela Eagle:** The Department has not received any formal representations on the changing of the age range related to eligibility for winter fuel payments.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Sustainable Fisheries

9. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs What steps he plans to take to encourage sustainable fisheries. [315383]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The UK's response to the Commission's Green Paper on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy states that to achieve the effective, sustainable exploitation of fish stocks, the EU must set itself a series of more challenging objectives. We shall seek to persuade the Commission to look beyond the world summit on sustainable development commitment to fish stocks at maximum sustainable yield and deliver a mechanism which optimises the renewable wealth of marine fish resources.

### Biodiversity

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress his Department has made towards meeting its 2010 biodiversity targets; and if he will make a statement. [315395]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** We have continued to make progress on our biodiversity priorities. For example, nearly 91 per cent. of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are now in favourable or recovering condition; we have a Marine and Coastal Access Act which will ensure productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas; and internationally we continue to support a wide range of conservation projects through our Darwin initiative.

### International Whaling Commission

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what objectives he has set for the outcomes of the inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission in March 2010. [315398]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The agenda for the forthcoming inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission is yet to be announced and a report by the Chair on reform discussions has not yet been produced; therefore I am unable to comment in detail.

I can reassure you that we will continue to strive to ensure long-term protection and conservation of whale populations worldwide. The UK Government will not agree to any proposals which increase risk to future whale populations.

## Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [314233]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Chorley, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Chorley is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected Department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its public service agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm.

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Chorley, the Government office for the north-east is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

## Departmental Advertising

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what advertising campaigns his Department has been responsible in each of the last three years; which such campaigns have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10 to date; and what the total cost of each such campaign has been. [309919]

**Dan Norris:** Since the beginning of the current financial year DEFRA has spent around £2 million on campaign advertising. This was primarily on campaigns for conservation volunteering, water saving, waste and resource efficiency. A further £2[illegible]841 was spent on advertising vacancies within the same time period.

Spend covering the previous two years is outlined as follows:

*2008-09*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Act On $CO_2$[1] | 12,185,373 |
| Resource Efficiency | 521,584 |
| Reach Communications | 137,949 |
| Miscellaneous | 38,905 |
| DEFRA WATO | 14,671 |
| Eco-labelling | 9,245 |
| DEFRA Conservation Volunteering | 12,200 |
| Recruitment Advertising | 26,727 |
| Total | 12,946,653 |

*2007-08*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Climate Change—Citizen and Public Engagement Project | 4,491,921 |
| Miscellaneous | 115,777 |
| Communications (Pre-Registration Stage) | 127,660 |
| Climate Challenge | 650,307 |
| Animal Disease Prevention Campaign | 40,000 |
| DEFRA WATO Announcement Ad | 14,372 |
| Eco-labelling | 12,989 |
| Catering Insertion | 6,976 |
| Nature Magazine Insertion | 6,630 |
| Sheep and Goats Identification | 3,460 |
| Greener Living Pages | 8,684 |
| Act On $CO_2$[1] | 695,497 |
| Recruitment Advertising | 11,704 |
| Total | 6,185,977 |

[1] Funded by DEFRA and DfT—DEFRA share shown above.

## Departmental Compensation

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the adequacy of the level of consolatory payments made by his Department. [315393]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** As agreed at the Public Administration Select Committee meeting on 28 January, further discussions will be held between DEFRA and the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman on a range of customer service and redress issues affecting the Rural Payments Agency.

## Departmental Empty Property

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 63W, on departmental buildings, what the *(a)* book value and *(b)* estimated annual rental value is of vacant residential properties owned by his Department. [315968]

**Dan Norris:** The Department's empty residential property, which had been vacant in excess of six months as cited on 5 January, *Official Report*, column 63W, has a combined book value of £87,000 and combined potential annual rental value of £18,000.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys have been provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department since March 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [313175]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA procures BlackBerry services and mobile phones via two different arrangements.

1. In the case of BlackBerry services, these are provided through the IBM contract. The cost to the Department since 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2010 is:

| | *Number* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Ministers | 3 | 831.06 |
| Special advisors | 2 | 587.86 |

2. In the case of mobile phones, these are purchased via OGC's Mobile Solutions contract. The cost to the Department since 1 February 2009 is:

| | *Number* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Minister | 1 | 776.80 |

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many citizen juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310781]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 14 January 2010]*: The Department has not held any citizen juries or summits since October 2008.

### Detergents: Phosphorus

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to phase out phosphorus in domestic laundry cleaning products; and if he will make a statement. [314765]

**Dan Norris:** We are proposing to limit phosphate content in domestic laundry cleaning products by revising the Detergents Regulations 2005. DEFRA has consulted twice on this subject—first in February 2008 when we consulted the public on the principle of a limitation, and then in January 2010 on draft regulations detailing the mechanism for achieving it. The proposals are for a limitation of phosphate content in domestic laundry cleaning products by 2015.

### Farms

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of farms in the UK under five hectares in size. [315584]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA only holds data on farms i England. The most recent 2008 data on the numbers o agricultural holdings in England with less than fiv hectares are shown in the following table. The 2009 dat will be available mid-February 2010 on the DEFRA website.

| 2008 | |
|---|---|
| | *Numbe* |
| Holdings with less than five hectares of farmed area | 80,68 |
| Holdings with unknown activity (recorded as zero area)[1] | 14,42 |
| Holdings <5 ha total | 95,08 |

[1] These are holdings which are registered with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) but we have not yet obtained any information on their levels of farming activity. These holdings are stored on the statistical register but with a zero farmed area. The numbers are shown here for completeness.

*Source:*

June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* his Department. [314950]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA and the Environment Agency do not hold a central register of information and datasets collected from local authorities. To produce a definitive list of such collections would involve disproportionate cost.

### Nature Conservation: Crime

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of wildlife crime. [315394]

**Dan Norris:** Government are working to reduce wildlife crime by supporting the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime; funding the National Wildlife Crime Unit; chairing the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking; and through our commitment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

### North East Sustainable Resources Board

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the role is of the new North East Sustainable Resources Board; how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to it; and in what other Government office regions such a board has been *(a)* established and *(b)* proposed. [314948]

**Dan Norris:** The North East Sustainable Resources Board is a public-private partnership set up by the North East Region to provide effective leadership across all sectors to deliver recycling and waste policies in the Regional Strategy. It is supported by a cross-sector Stakeholder Group that advises the Board and assists with delivery. The Stakeholder Group includes a number of regional government bodies, including the Government Office for the North East on behalf of DEFRA, as well as relevant private and third sector organisations. The Board itself met for the first time on 11 January 2010.

It has been commissioned to:

Advise the public sector—Government, Agencies, local authorities—on key issues to help overcome structural barriers.

Promote the 'resources hierarchy' to businesses and householders.

Persuade stakeholders in all sectors to share ideas, pool resources, and improve sustainability.

Its full role is explained in its Terms of Reference which will be available on the Board's website when it goes live on 26 February 2010:

www.nesrb.org.uk

DEFRA regional waste funding was used by the North East to assess how best to provide effective leadership in resource management. This led to the Board's establishment. No public funding has been allocated to the Board. It is supported by private sector funding, but One North East, the Regional Development Agency covering North East England, has agreed that one of their delivery bodies can provide regional co-ordination and administrative help for establishing and supporting the Board and Stakeholder Group.

Apart from the statutory London Waste and Recycling Board, this is the first funded regional board covering the management of resources, recycling and waste. Other regions are considering their own appropriate strategic arrangements to co-ordinate sustainable resource management. This will contribute to their regional strategies, as proposed under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

### Streatham

**Keith Hill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313397]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Streatham, which falls under Lambeth council, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Lambeth is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected Department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its Public Service Agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 Report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Lambeth, the Government Office for London is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

### Wood: NDPBs

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer on 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on wood: Government departments, whether guidance provided by the Central Point of Expertise on Timber is binding on all non-departmental public bodies. [315585]

**Dan Norris:** I can confirm that pursuant to the answer on 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1080W, on wood: Government Departments, the UK Government timber procurement policy is mandatory for all central Government Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Security

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date officials of his Department first met representatives of the aviation industry to discuss the implications for UK airport security of the attempt to detonate an explosive on a commercial airliner on 25 December 2009. [314735]

**Paul Clark:** Departmental officials were in contact with the aviation industry immediately after news of the incident on 25 December was received and throughout the Christmas and new year period. The Secretary of State met senior executives from a number of major airports on 6 January 2010 to discuss the security implications of the incident and a formal consultation session for representatives from the aviation security sector was held on 7 January 2010.

### Civil Servants: Pay

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the total amount of bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service in his Department was in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [305949]

**Chris Mole:** The total amount of non-consolidated performance-related awards paid to members of the senior civil service in the Department for Transport was £1,344,831 in 2008 and £1,310,804 in 2009.

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average queuing time was at the Dartford River Crossing *(a)* northbound and *(b)* southbound toll plaza per 15-minute interval per weekday in the last 12 months. [315446]

**Chris Mole:** Specific data on queuing times at the Dartford River Crossing toll plaza are not recorded.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how long on average payment transactions took at each toll booth at the Dartford River Crossing in the last 12 months. [315447]

**Chris Mole:** In the last 12-month period from February 2009 to January 2010 the average payment transaction time for the toll booths at the Dartford Crossing was 12.3 seconds. Figures for individual booths can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Drinking Water

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313028]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313652]

**Chris Mole:** In the calendar year 2009 the Department for Transport took an average of 4.26 days to answer written questions and 2.70 days to answer named day questions.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency: Finance

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of the finance function of the Government Car and Despatch Agency referred to in the publication, "Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government"; and if he will make a statement. [312684]

**Paul Clark:** Annex A to the publication "Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government" states that the cost of the finance function in the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) was 5.5 per cent. of its turnover in 2008-09. Although this could be perceived as high against the best practice benchmark of 1 per cent. in relative terms due to the overall costs of the GCDA being relatively low, the percentage costs of the functional elements become inflated.

The finance function was increased in order to address temporary peaks in business activity and the introduction of a new IT system. Staff levels in the finance team are now falling.

The new interim chief executive has begun looking into ways to introduce further efficiencies.

### Heathrow Airport

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 344W, on Heathrow airport, on what date the then Secretary of State confirmed the decision to hold the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation over a 14-week period. [315175]

**Paul Clark:** In line with guidance, officials adopted a 14-week consultation period as a working assumption as soon as it became clear in 2007 that the consultation would span the Christmas holiday period. The decision was taken by then Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), on 1 October 2007 when she wrote to Cabinet colleagues seeking agreement to the consultation. Agreement to the 14-week period was confirmed following the normal cabinet clearance process, which was completed on 12 November 2007.

### Kemble-Swindon Railway Line

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate Network Rail has made of the cost of re-doubling the Swindon to Kemble railway line; and if he will discuss with hon. Members representing constituencies in Gloucestershire the funding of that project. [314852]

**Chris Mole:** The study work undertaken by Network Rail to date indicates a cost of £52.4 million for the redoubling of the Swindon-Kemble section of the Great Western route. Department for Transport officials are in detailed discussion with Network Rail to determine the extent to which the task can be undertaken within the funding available from the south-west region. This is capped at £45 million.

We hope to be in a position to give further information on the matter in the near future and would be pleased to arrange a meeting with hon. Members.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish the results of his Department's feasibility study of the re-doubling of the Swindon to Kemble railway line. [315733]

**Chris Mole:** I will make a statement concerning the redoubling of this section of line, along with such supporting material as is necessary, once the present dialogue with Network Rail is concluded.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he anticipates a final decision will be made on the re-doubling of the Swindon to Kemble railway line. [315734]

**Chris Mole:** Talks with Network Rail are currently taking place on the subject of redoubling this section of route. I will review the position at the conclusion of that dialogue and take a decision in due course.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the budget from the regional funding allocation in respect of the Swindon to Kemble railway line expires. [315735]

**Chris Mole:** There is no specific end date to the availability of finance from the south-west region in connection with this project. The region has prioritised the scheme to commence during 2010-11 and to make finance available from that point, provided that there is a satisfactory outcome to the negotiations with Network Rail.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the earliest date is on which work could commence on the re-doubling of the Swindon to Kemble railway line. [315737]

**Chris Mole:** This depends upon the outcome of negotiations with Network Rail, but if these are successful then preliminary work could commence during 2010.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on provision for the funding of any shortfall from the regional funding allocation in respect of the re-doubling of the Swindon to Kemble railway line. [315738]

**Chris Mole:** The Welsh Assembly Government have contributed £100,000 towards the detailed study of re-doubling the line. The Department for Transport is working closely with Network Rail to ensure that it can introduce a scheme that is affordable within the resources available to the south-west region.

Departmental officials are continuing to keep Welsh Assembly Government officials briefed on the progress of Network Rail's study.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many motorists bought a vehicle excise duty licence with a single payment in each of the last three years. [314505]

**Paul Clark:** The figures in the following table are the total numbers of 12-month vehicle excise duty licences, issued in the United Kingdom for financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

*12-month licence*

| | *Number (million)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 23.068 |
| 2007-08 | 23.381 |
| 2008-09 | 23.420 |

The figures in the following table are the total numbers of six-month vehicle excise duty licences, issued in the United Kingdom for financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

*Six-month licence*

| | *Number (million)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 19.776 |
| 2007-08 | 20.199 |
| 2008-09 | 20.077 |

Both 12-month and six-month licences must be paid for in full prior to issue. There is no option to part pay for either a 12-month or six-month licence.

### Park and Ride Schemes

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with the East Riding of Yorkshire council on the proposed park and ride scheme at Bridlington, with particular reference to the expected profitability of such a scheme; and whether he has made an assessment of the potential profitability of such a scheme; [314834]

(2) if he will estimate the financial losses incurred in respect of the operation of the park and ride scheme in Doncaster; and if he will provide guidance to local authorities on the consideration of alternatives to such schemes in circumstances in which they make a financial loss. [314838]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is contributing a maximum sum of £5,428,799 to the construction cost of the Bridlington integrated transport scheme.

Where the Department is providing more than £5 million to a local authority major scheme, the Department takes operating costs and projected revenues of major schemes into account, among many other factors, as part of a value for money assessment.

It is not a condition of funding that park and ride services or any other schemes must make a financial operating surplus. It is the responsibility of the promoting local authority to meet net operating costs including provision of an operating subsidy where necessary or appropriate.

The Department is not aware of the actual operating costs and revenues relating to the operation of the Doncaster A638 park and ride scheme.

### Railway Signals

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the financial implications for his Department of the cancellation of the European Train Control System early deployment scheme. [314279]

**Chris Mole:** The Cambrian Early Deployment Scheme has not been cancelled. The lessons learnt from this scheme will be vital to informing the planning of future European Rail Traffic Management System deployments.

### Roads: Construction

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles of new road lanes on *(a)* newly-built roads and *(b)* widening projects have been constructed in each year since 1997; and what the estimated cost of such construction has been. [313784]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The table provided for local authority major road schemes provides information only from 2000 onwards.

The Department for Transport does not currently hold detailed information centrally on local authority schemes, such as road lengths or whether the scheme is a new build or widening. Our Regional Transport Statistics publication does, however, provide data on road lengths by region in England and is available on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

### Roads: East Riding

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will allocate funds to the East Riding of Yorkshire council for the purposes of repairing road surfaces cracked, potholed and damaged as a result of the recent severe weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [314837]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has published guidance on its emergency capital highway maintenance funding scheme. Authorities including East Riding of Yorkshire council may submit a claim for emergency funding to repair damage to their roads which they consider was caused by the recent severe weather. The Department will carefully consider claims that are received.

### Roads: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received from Gloucestershire county council on increasing its block grant for the purpose of funding road repairs. [314853]

**Mr. Khan:** Gloucestershire county council received additional funding under the Department for Transport's emergency capital highway maintenance funding scheme for damage caused by flooding in 2001 and 2007. No further representations have been received from the authority for additional funding to carry out repairs to their local highway network.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what advice he has received on the level of compensation payable to motorists in respect of damage to vehicles during the recent severe weather conditions, incurred as a result of the state of repair of roads for which the Highways Agency has responsibility. [314854]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency has a comprehensive road resurfacing programme to reduce the potential for potholes and other surface defects but there is no doubt that the severity of the recent weather conditions has led to an increase in defects to the road surface. The Highways Agency is confident that the regime for identifying these defects and the resources necessary for undertaking repairs is sufficient to keep England's motorways and trunk roads in a safe and serviceable condition.

There is no automatic right to compensation. The law makes it quite clear that highway authorities canno be blamed for everything that happens on their roads and provided that they can demonstrate that they took all reasonable steps to ensure that the highway was safe they will not be found negligent. Unfortunately, incidents do occur but very few are actually attributable to negligence on the part of the highway authority. The majority of claims brought against the Highways Agency are successfully defended.

### Thameslink

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the financial implications of deferring the delivery of Thameslink until 2015. [314340]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport is continually reviewing the costs associated with the Thameslink programme. The current forecast of the total costs for the programme is around £5.5 billion to £6 billion.

The Department is working closely with Network Rail and other industry partners to ensure that the programme can be delivered within its budget.

### Transport: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding the local transport authority in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk has received from his Department (i) in total, (ii) per mile of road and (iii) per head of population in each year since 1997. [314885]

**Mr. Khan:** Funding provided to the local transport authorities in Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk to support local transport is shown in the following tables. From 2000-01 this funding comprises the integrated transport block and highways maintenance for general capital funding for transport and additional capital funding for specific major projects. Also included is funding for maintenance of roads that have been de-trunked, road safety projects, bus services and cycling and walking schemes. Prior to 2000-01 funding was provided in the form of 'gross approved spending'.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant, and it is not possible to disaggregate this by service.

Funding for concessionary travel has not been included, since this is provided to the district councils in these areas, rather than the upper tier transport authorities.

*(i) In total*

£ million

| *Financial year* | *Suffolk* | *Bedfordshire* | *Cambridgeshire* | *Essex* | *Hertfordshire* | *Norfolk* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 37.492 | 17.170 | 65.964 | 43.053 | 35.074 | 34.792 |
| 2007-08 | 30.495 | 18.204 | 65.057 | 40.412 | 33.905 | 40.020 |
| 2006-07 | 42.029 | 20.909 | 43.515 | 32.877 | 31.743 | 40.971 |
| 2005-06 | 38.219 | 11.264 | 28.512 | 35.139 | 38.074 | 35.872 |
| 2004-05 | 34.222 | 10.032 | 30.941 | 28.571 | 42.875 | 42.736 |
| 2003-04 | 26.213 | 10.738 | 21.667 | 28.153 | 26.746 | 40.181 |
| 2002-03 | 23.279 | 26.024 | 17.273 | 36.301 | 26.085 | 33.614 |
| 2001-02 | 25.126 | 9.847 | 16.992 | 35.260 | 23.150 | 39.487 |
| 2000-01 | 9.674 | 4.715 | 8.107 | 13.236 | 9.911 | 11.128 |
| 1999-2000 | 6.756 | 5.045 | 8.592 | 9.992 | 7.302 | 9.346 |
| 1998-99 | 5.838 | 3.513 | 5.613 | 6.068 | 4.997 | 7.115 |
| 1997-98 | 6.141 | 3.692 | 8.542 | 6.615 | 6.550 | 7.713 |

*(ii) Per mile of road*

£000

| *Financial year* | *Suffolk* | *Bedfordshire* | *Cambridgeshire* | *Essex* | *Hertfordshire* | *Norfolk* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 8.648 | 11.968 | 22.517 | 8.451 | 11.418 | 5.532 |
| 2007-08 | 7.038 | 12.696 | 21.819 | 7.944 | 10.372 | 6.518 |
| 2006-07 | 9.713 | 14.667 | 14.915 | 6.497 | 9.754 | 6.510 |
| 2005-06 | 8.992 | 8.113 | 9.881 | 6.949 | 12.684 | 5.719 |
| 2004-05 | 8.060 | 7.060 | 10.706 | 5.647 | 14.155 | 6.856 |
| 2003-04 | 6.147 | 7.442 | 7.543 | 5.697 | 8.277 | 6.399 |
| 2002-03 | 5.467 | 18.058 | 6.021 | 7.364 | 8.089 | 5.362 |
| 2001-02 | 5.910 | 6.844 | 5.932 | 7.164 | 7.193 | 6.308 |
| 2000-01 | 2.279 | 3.783 | 2.834 | 2.294 | 3.086 | 1.780 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.778 | 4.110 | 3.467 | 2.239 | 2.580 | 1.650 |
| 1998-99 | 1.539 | 2.868 | 2.268 | 1.362 | 1.769 | 1.258 |
| 1997-98 | 1.621 | 3.020 | 3.457 | 1.488 | 2.324 | 1.366 |

*(iii) Per head of population*

£

| *Financial year* | *Suffolk* | *Bedfordshire* | *Cambridgeshire* | *Essex* | *Hertfordshire* | *Norfolk* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 52 | 42 | 109 | 31 | 33 | 41 |
| 2007-08 | 43 | 45 | 107 | 29 | 32 | 49 |
| 2006-07 | 60 | 52 | 74 | 24 | 30 | 49 |
| 2005-06 | 55 | 28 | 49 | 26 | 36 | 43 |
| 2004-05 | 50 | 25 | 54 | 21 | 41 | 52 |
| 2003-04 | 39 | 27 | 38 | 21 | 26 | 49 |
| 2002-03 | 35 | 67 | 31 | 27 | 25 | 42 |
| 2001-02 | 38 | 26 | 31 | 27 | 22 | 49 |
| 2000-01 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 14 |
| 1999-2000 | 10 | 13 | 16 | 8 | 7 | 12 |
| 1998-99 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| 1997-98 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 5 | 5 | 10 |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Departmental Disclosure of Information

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313227]

**Meg Hillier:** The agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which the Home Office is responsible make most of their general information available free, via publications or their websites (subject to relevant copyright provisions). Where applicable, most Crown copyright information is available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence. In common with Government policy, some information is sold as priced publications.

Of the agencies for which the Home Office is responsible, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) provides criminal record information to private companies and other organisations for the purposes of pre-employment checks under Part V of the Police Act 1997. A fee is payable to cover the cost of this service, as provided for in the Act.

In addition, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) provides a call centre service to accredited private sector organisations to check the validity of passports presented to their business as evidence of identity. IPS does not sell personal data to the organisations; it merely confirms the validity of passport information provided by the organisation. The IPS also provides access to passport records to accredited public sector organisations for the purposes of confirming identity, nationality and/or the validation of a British passport. IPS charges organisations in order to recover the costs incurred in providing these services.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* benchmarking and *(b)* auditing will be undertaken by his Department to ensure that ex-service personnel amputees receive the same follow-up management of their prostheses in the NHS as they did in the armed forces. [309989]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Health informed the House on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS, that:

> "a package of measures will be put in place across the NHS to support the increased number of service personnel who have received serious injuries such as loss of limb or brain injuries whilst on active service. This will include new arrangements with the MOD for life care planning together with a guarantee that those seriously injured and needing continuing health care will receive ongoing high quality care for life based on an early and comprehensive assessment and regular review of their needs overseen by an NHS case manager".

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his Department's pilot housing purchase scheme announced on 26 January 2010 to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* evaluated. [314893]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme (pilot) will run until spring 2013. However, long-term arrangements will be put in place to administer and look after those who have participated in the scheme over the 25-year maximum term of the equity loan they have received.

The MOD in conjunction with the Homes and Communities Agency will be monitoring and evaluating the scheme closely throughout the pilot period, including looking at factors such as take-up rates, feedback as to whether the scheme meets all the requirements of service personnel, value for money and affordability.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the £20 million allocation announced on 26 January 2010 for a housing purchase pilot he expects to be spent on administrative overhead costs. [314894]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The MOD has agreed to share fixed costs with the Homes and Communities Agency to manage and deliver the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme (pilot). The Swaythling Housing Society (the appointed agent) costs were determined through open competition in line with European Union procurement rules, and total around £100,000 up to spring 2013. In line with other Government schemes, a £1,500 fee is paid from the MOD allocation of funds for each completed house purchase. The total will vary according to the number of homes delivered.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons he decided to restrict eligibility for loans under his Department's housing initiative announced on 26 January 2010 to those who have served between four and six years. [314895]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme (pilot) is seeking to encourage retention. The criterion of no less than four and no more than six years' service was chosen after consultation with the three services. It is a critical period for retention and this approach will also help to target those service personnel on lower incomes who traditionally need the most help to get on the housing ladder.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of service family accommodation which did not meet move-in standards were occupied following the signing of a waiver by the tenants in 2009. [315004]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The only circumstance in which occupants of service family accommodation are asked to sign a waiver is when they are occupying a property outside of the normal preparation timescales for reasons of personal choice; this does not necessarily mean the property was not at move-in standard.

However the information on the number of occasions in 2009 when this has occurred is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the mental health pilot scheme for armed forces personnel; and if he will make a statement; [313868]

(2) how many armed forces personnel have taken part in his Department's mental health pilots since their inception; [313869]

(3) which psychological therapies are being offered as part of his Department's six mental health pilots; [313873]

(4) what plans his Department has to implement its mental health pilot schemes on a national basis. [313874]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Six NHS mental health pilot schemes for former armed forces personnel are operational across the UK. Their aim is to assess, treat or signpost veterans to appropriate services. Initial results from the pilots are encouraging with evidence that veterans feel able to access and use the service with confidence. Around 600 veterans have been referred to the pilots so far. The mental health problems seen in ex-service personnel and the appropriate interventions are similar to those in the general population.

Data collected from the pilots will help shape the design of a best practice NHS-led community mental health service for veterans. The evaluation of these pilots will complete during 2010, with a view to all NHS mental health services rolling out special provision for veterans during 2011-12.

For those in areas not yet involved in the service, veterans with mental health problems and operational service after 1982 may attend the Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas' Hospital, London. Veterans are also a Special Interest Group in accessing Psychological Therapies as part of the Department of Health's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme.

### AWE Management: Government Shareholding

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the Government's golden share in AWE Management Ltd. with *(a)* UK and *(b)* EC competition law. [314625]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Government do not own a share in AWE Management Ltd. The share owned by the Government is a special share in the share capital of AWE plc. An assessment of this share has been made and I am satisfied that it is compatible with UK and European Union laws.

### Ex-servicemen: Care Homes

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate has he made of the number of residential home and nursing home places that are available specifically for former service personnel; [314385]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of residential and nursing home places for former service personnel diagnosed with service-related disabilities, long-term illnesses or age-related care needs; and if he will make a statement. [314388]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD does not provide residential care for ex-service personnel. The MOD does, however, work with other Government Departments, local authorities and ex-service charities to ensure that residential care services take account of veterans' needs where appropriate.

### Military Bases: Security

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many break-ins at UK military bases were reported in each of the last 12 months. [314475]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** 'Break-ins' is not a category used to record incidents; the following table sets out the number of recorded site incursions into UK military bases and establishments.

| *2009* | *Site incursions* |
|---|---|
| January | 0 |
| February | 0 |
| March | 0 |
| April | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| June | 1 |
| July | 0 |
| August | 5 |
| September | 0 |
| October | 2 |
| November | 0 |
| December | 0 |

### Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a decision on the location of the submarine dismantling project is likely to be made; and if he will make a statement. [314474]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The submarine dismantling project is considering possible sites for both the initial dismantling of out of service submarines and the interim storage of the resulting intermediate level radioactive waste. The analysis of the various options will take account of a wide range of factors, including the output from a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The options analysis and the SEA will be key elements of the planned public consultation.

Further analysis work is still required and, until public consultation is complete, no decisions will be taken on the sites for either submarine dismantling or waste storage. Public consultation is currently planned to take place during 2010.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314520]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD is committed to protecting the health, safety and well-being of its employees and has a number of procedures in place to manage stress at work. Advice based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards is available to all employees and gives easy-to-use guidance on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

This advice is detailed in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 375 - The Health and Safety Handbook - Leaflet 25 which explains the broad policy for the management of stress at work across MOD which covers both military and civilian personnel.

A Well Being Handbook also provides a generic guide for employees to recognise and manage their own workplace stress.

In addition to the above, MOD have the Trauma Risk Management Stress Handbook for service personnel who have experienced stress during or following operational deployment.

Copies of all of the above documents will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Warships: Decommissioning

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships have gone out of service in each year since 1997. [314672]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, including submarines, withdrawn from service in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table:

| | *Royal Navy vessels withdrawn from service* | *Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels withdrawn from service* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | HMS Battleaxe<br>HMS Orwell<br>HMS Peacock<br>HMS Plover<br>HMS Starling<br>HMS Orkney<br>HMY Britannia | RFA Resource |
| 1998 | HMS Blackwater<br>HMS Spey<br>HMS Arun<br>HMS Itchen | None |
| 1999 | HMS Birmingham<br>HMS Boxer<br>HMS Beaver<br>HMS London | None |
| 2000 | HMS Brave<br>HMS Bicester | RFA Olna<br>RFA Olwen |
| 2001 | HMS Intrepid<br>HMS Coventry<br>HMS Berkeley<br>HMS Cromer<br>HMS Herald<br>HMS Bulldog | None |
| 2002 | HMS Fearless<br>HMS Sheffield<br>HMS Alderney<br>HMS Beagle | None |
| 2003 | HMS Splendid<br>HMS Anglesey<br>HMS Shetland<br>HMS Guernsey<br>HMS Lindisfarne | None |
| 2004 | HMS Bridport | RFA Sir Geraint |
| 2005 | HMS Glasgow<br>HMS Newcastle<br>HMS Cardiff<br>HMS Norfolk<br>HMS Marlborough<br>HMS Sandown<br>HMS Inverness<br>HMS Brecon<br>HMS Cottesmore<br>HMS Dulverton<br>HMS Leeds Castle | RFA Sir Percivale |
| 2006 | HMS Spartan<br>HMS Sovereign<br>HMS Grafton | RFA Sir Galahad<br>RFA Sir Tristram<br>RFA Grey Rover |
| 2007 | HMS Dumbarton Castle | RFA Brambleleaf<br>RFA Oakleaf |
| 2008 | HMS Superb | RFA Sir Bedivere |
| 2009 | HMS Trafalgar<br>HMS Southampton<br>HMS Exeter | None |

HMS Nottingham is due to be withdrawn from service during February 2010.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Responsibilities: Females

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of establishing a ministerial post to take forward the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development to prevent violence against women and to promote women's rights internationally. [315680]

**The Prime Minister:** The Government are committed to tackling violence against women and promoting women's rights internationally. We currently support action on violence against women through a range of initiatives in over 20 countries and we work through international organisations to promote women's rights internationally.

The machinery of government is kept under review.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Class Sizes

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio of teaching assistants to pupils is at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Suffolk, (ii) the East of England and (iii) England. [313861]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following table provides the pupil to teaching assistant ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Suffolk local authority, the East of England Government office region and England, January 2009.

*Pupil teaching assistant[1] ratios[2], (PTAR), in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, January 2009—Coverage: Suffolk local authority, East of England Government office region and England*

| | Suffolk local authority | | East of England Government office region | | England | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Primary* | *Secondary* | *Primary* | *Secondary* | *Primary* | *Secondary* |
| 2009 | | | | | | |
| PTAR | 34.8 | 72.6 | 31.4 | 78.0 [1] | 34.1 | 80.1 |

[1] Includes higher level teaching assistants, nursery nurses, nursery assistants, literacy and numeracy support staff, other non-teaching staff regularly employed to support teachers in the classroom, special needs and minority ethnic pupils support staff.

[2] The pupil to teaching assistant ratio is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of teaching assistants employed in schools. *Source:* Annual School Census

## GCSE

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils achieved GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in 2009; [313479]

(2) how many pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in 2009. [313489]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is given in the following table.

*Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4[1,2] in maintained schools[3] achieving A* to C in English and maths GCSEs, 5+ A* to C grades, and 5+ A* to C including English and maths GCSEs in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North East and England, 2008/09[4,5]*

| | Achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalents | | Achieving A*-C in English and maths at GCSE | | Achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalents including English and maths at GCSE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| England[2] | 403,312 | 70.0 | 296,550 | 51.4 | 293,392 | 50.9 |
| North East | 22,336 | 72.8 | 14,862 | 48.5 | 14,757 | 48.1 |
| South Tyneside | 1,484 | 77.5 | 917 | 47.9 | 913 | 47.7 |
| Jarrow constituency | 748 | 76.3 | 500 | 51.0 | 497 | 50.7 |

[1] Number of pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2008/09 academic year.

[2] These figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[3] Maintained schools include city technology colleges and academies.

[4] Including attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

[5] Data are Revised.

*Source:*

Achievement and Attainment Tables.

## GCSE: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* the South West were below the National Challenge benchmark following the 2009 GCSE results. [314614]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested for the academic year 2008/09 is provided in the following table:

*The number of schools[1] in (a) Torbay constituency and (b) south-west Government office region in which less than 30 per cent. of pupils[2] obtained five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C including English and maths GCSEs in 2008/09*

| | Number of schools[1] where fewer than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs in 2008/09 | Total number of schools[1] in 2008/09 |
|---|---|---|
| Torbay constituency | 0 | 6 |
| South-west Government office region | 16 | 294 |

[1] Including only those open maintained mainstream schools with results published in the relevant years Achievement and Attainment Tables and with more than 10 pupils at the end of key stage 4 on roll.

[2] Pupils at the end of key stage 4.

*Source:*

Achievement and Attainment Tables 2008/09 revised data.

## Head Teachers: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have held the post of head teacher at each school in Milton Keynes since 1997. [315373]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Head Teachers: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers there have been at each school in Suffolk since 1997. [314871]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Streatham

**Keith Hill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313401]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and childcare with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the improvement in performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Streatham are given in the following tables:

*Key Stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the Streatham constituency:*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above* | *1997* | *[1]2009* | *Percentage point improvement 1997-2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Streatham—English[2] | 60 | 77 | 17 |
| Streatham—maths[2] | 59 | 74 | 15 |
| Streatham—Science[2] | 66 | 83 | 17 |
| England—English[2] | 63 | 80 | 17 |
| England—maths[2] | 62 | 79 | 17 |
| England—Science[2] | 68 | 88 | 20 |

[1] Revised data

[2] Pupils attending schools in Streatham constituency

[3] The average for all schools in England

*GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools in the Streatham constituency*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining* | *1997* | *2009[3]* | *Percentage point improvement 1997-2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Streatham—5+ A* - C | 36.4 | 76.7 | 40.3 |
| Streatham—5+ A* - G | 85.9 | 96.7 | 10.8 |
| National Average—5+ A* - C | 45.1 | 70.0 | 24.9 |
| National Average—5+ A* - G | 86.4 | 92.3 | 5.9 |

1 From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

2. From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

3 Revised data.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil/teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Stroud constituency the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [312754]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and childcare with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the improvement in performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Stroud are given in the following tables:

*Key Stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the Stroud constituency:*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above* | *1997* | *[1]2009* | *Percentage point improvement 1997-2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stroud—English[2] | 70 | 86 | 16 |
| Stroud—maths[2] | 66 | 84 | 18 |
| Stroud—Science[2] | 75 | 92 | 17 |
| England—English[3] | 63 | 80 | 17 |
| England—maths[3] | 62 | 79 | 17 |
| England—Science[3] | 68 | 88 | 20 |

[1] Revised data

[2] Pupils attending schools in Stroud constituency

[3] The average for all schools in England

*GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools in the Stroud constituency:*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining* | *1997* | *[3]2009* | *Percentage point improvement 1997-2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stroud—5+ A* - C | 55.6 | 70.2 | 14.6 |
| Stroud—5+ A* - G | 92.1 | 94.0 | 1.9 |
| National Average—5+ A* - C | 45.1 | 70.0 | 24.9 |
| National Average—5+ A* - G | 86.4 | 92.3 | 5.9 |

[1] From 2004 results Incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.

[2] From 2008 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.

[3] Revised data.

## Students: Finance

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people under 20 years old in further education in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency received assistance in meeting childcare costs in each year since 1997. [311348]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There is a range of support available to provide assistance with child care costs depending on the circumstances of the parent. Since 2004/05 support for child care costs for learners under 19 at the beginning of their programme of learning has been available through the Care to Learn child care support scheme. Care to Learn was extended to include learners under 20 in April 2006.

In the academic year 2008/09 8,010 learners in England benefited from Care to Learn. This figure will include a number of learners aged over 20 who were under 20 at the beginning of their course.

The DCSF does not have a breakdown of Care to Learn recipients by constituency. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has operational responsibility for Care to Learn, which includes the collection of management information. Geoff Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend for Middlesbrough

South, and East Cleveland with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Teachers: North East

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* North East England in each year since 1997; [313459]

(2) how many secondary school teachers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; [313480]

(3) how many primary school teachers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in 2009. [313490]

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers were employed in secondary schools in Leeds North East constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009; [314652]

(2) how many teachers were employed in primary schools in Leeds North East constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which information is available. [314653]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the number of teachers in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies in England broken down by the phase of education, Government office region, local authority and constituency for each January from 1997 to 2009 has been placed in the House of Commons Libraries.

### Teachers: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers and teaching assistants were employed in schools in each constituency in the South West in each year since 1997. [313165]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following tables provide the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies in each constituency in the south-west Government office region, in each January, 1997 to 2009.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Full-time equivalent teachers[1] in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies. Years: January 1997 to 2009: Coverage: parliamentary constituencies in the south-west Government office region (GOR)*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South-West GOR[2,3] | 34,950 | 34,990 | 35,360 | 35,900 | 36,930 | 37,980 | 38,220 | 38,280 | 38,800 | 39,440 | 39,570 | 40,130 | 40,360 |
| Bath | 680 | 680 | 680 | 690 | 690 | 700 | 670 | 640 | 650 | 660 | 680 | 690 | 700 |
| Bournemouth East | 580 | 590 | 600 | 600 | 630 | 650 | 640 | 630 | 630 | 620 | 630 | 660 | 660 |
| Bournemouth West | 410 | 430 | 440 | 440 | 470 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 470 | 460 | 480 | 490 | 480 |
| Bridgwater | 650 | 650 | 650 | 670 | 680 | 710 | 720 | 720 | 730 | 730 | 740 | 760 | 770 |
| Bristol East | 620 | 600 | 550 | 660 | 710 | 620 | 640 | 650 | 660 | 680 | 670 | 710 | 700 |
| Bristol North West | 900 | 890 | 910 | 900 | 910 | 910 | 920 | 940 | 900 | 920 | 930 | 910 | 910 |
| Bristol South | 860 | 830 | 790 | 860 | 870 | 840 | 810 | 830 | 820 | 850 | 810 | 780 | 840 |
| Bristol West | 430 | 430 | 440 | 440 | 450 | 450 | 440 | 440 | 460 | 470 | 480 | 530 | 640 |
| Cheltenham | 610 | 680 | 690 | 700 | 710 | 670 | 680 | 690 | 670 | 680 | 690 | 690 | 700 |
| Christchurch | 560 | 570 | 590 | 610 | 620 | 560 | 580 | 590 | 530 | 600 | 590 | 570 | 570 |
| Cotswold | 690 | 700 | 720 | 730 | 750 | 770 | 810 | 800 | 820 | 830 | 830 | 830 | 840 |
| Devizes | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 810 | 840 | 860 | 870 | 910 | 910 | 910 | 940 | 950 |
| East Devon | 470 | 470 | 490 | 500 | 520 | 540 | 540 | 560 | 570 | 580 | 580 | 600 | 610 |
| Exeter | 650 | 660 | 650 | 660 | 670 | 690 | 690 | 720 | 700 | 700 | 690 | 720 | 730 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 670 | 660 | 660 | 660 | 680 | 690 | 710 | 710 | 730 | 730 | 730 | 730 | 720 |
| Forest of Dean | 590 | 550 | 560 | 550 | 580 | 660 | 660 | 650 | 670 | 680 | 680 | 680 | 690 |
| Gloucester | 910 | 910 | 930 | 940 | 980 | 1,010 | 1,050 | 1,070 | 1,080 | 1,120 | 1,120 | 1,130 | 1,140 |
| Kingswood | 750 | 750 | 730 | 760 | 780 | 820 | 840 | 830 | 820 | 840 | 840 | 860 | 880 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 830 | 840 | 820 | 830 | 850 | 870 | 900 | 870 | 880 | 900 | 890 | 920 | 900 |

*Full-time equivalent teachers[1] in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies. Years: January 1997 to 2009: Coverage: parliamentary constituencies in the south-west Government office region (GOR)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Cornwall | 850 | 830 | 840 | 870 | 880 | 900 | 890 | 900 | 920 | 950 | 960 | 980 | 970 |
| North Devon | 630 | 630 | 640 | 640 | 660 | 700 | 710 | 720 | 710 | 750 | 750 | 760 | 760 |
| North Dorset | 570 | 590 | 600 | 600 | 620 | 740 | 750 | 770 | 810 | 840 | 840 | 840 | 840 |
| North Swindon | 720 | 720 | 730 | 770 | 810 | 770 | 740 | 780 | 770 | 760 | 750 | 800 | 840 |
| North Wiltshire | 830 | 820 | 820 | 840 | 890 | 900 | 910 | 910 | 950 | 990 | 1,020 | 1,060 | 1,070 |
| Northavon | 840 | 840 | 870 | 890 | 920 | 940 | 940 | 890 | 910 | 920 | 920 | 940 | 940 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 1,020 | 1,010 | 1,000 | 1,010 | 1,020 | 1,050 | 1,040 | 1,010 | 1,010 | 1,000 | 980 | 980 | 950 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 550 | 550 | 590 | 610 | 640 | 620 | 610 | 600 | 610 | 630 | 630 | 650 | 640 |
| Poole | 420 | 430 | 420 | 430 | 450 | 450 | 460 | 440 | 440 | 460 | 480 | 460 | 470 |
| St. Ives | 640 | 640 | 620 | 630 | 660 | 670 | 690 | 690 | 700 | 700 | 700 | 730 | 730 |
| Salisbury | 740 | 740 | 730 | 740 | 760 | 760 | 780 | 790 | 790 | 790 | 800 | 810 | 300 |
| Somerton and Frame | 660 | 670 | 670 | 680 | 690 | 710 | 720 | 720 | 710 | 720 | 720 | 720 | 700 |
| South Dorset | 480 | 480 | 490 | 490 | 500 | 520 | 520 | 520 | 530 | 540 | 520 | 530 | 540 |
| South East Cornwall | 700 | 690 | 700 | 710 | 750 | 760 | 760 | 750 | 770 | 800 | 800 | 810 | 790 |
| South Swindon | 680 | 690 | 690 | 710 | 710 | 800 | 790 | 780 | 760 | 780 | 840 | 830 | 340 |
| South West Devon | 670 | 690 | 700 | 720 | 740 | 780 | 780 | 770 | 800 | 790 | 770 | 790 | 800 |
| Stroud | 710 | 720 | 720 | 730 | 760 | 790 | 800 | 780 | 810 | 820 | 830 | 840 | 830 |
| Taunton | 680 | 650 | 650 | 670 | 690 | 740 | 740 | 790 | 780 | 770 | 770 | 780 | 780 |
| Teignbridge | 640 | 650 | 670 | 670 | 690 | 730 | 730 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 750 |
| Tewkesbury | 680 | 680 | 680 | 700 | 720 | 750 | 770 | 770 | 780 | 780 | 810 | 820 | 800 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 750 | 760 | 790 | 780 | 810 | 860 | 850 | 840 | 850 | 880 | 890 | 900 | 900 |
| Torbay | 720 | 740 | 770 | 770 | 790 | 830 | 820 | 710 | 740 | 750 | 850 | 870 | 850 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 680 | 700 | 720 | 720 | 750 | 770 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 790 | 790 | 800 |
| Totnes | 620 | 640 | 640 | 650 | 680 | 710 | 710 | 860 | 870 | 920 | 770 | 790 | 800 |
| Truro and St. Austell | 660 | 650 | 650 | 650 | 660 | 700 | 700 | 710 | 720 | 730 | 730 | 760 | 770 |
| Wansdyke | 860 | 860 | 870 | 890 | 900 | 950 | 940 | 930 | 950 | 960 | 980 | 990 | 990 |
| Wells | 680 | 680 | 690 | 710 | 720 | 760 | 780 | 770 | 790 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| West Dorset | 700 | 730 | 750 | 760 | 790 | 820 | 850 | 910 | 910 | 910 | 940 | 940 | 940 |
| Westbury | 760 | 740 | 760 | 780 | 830 | 860 | 860 | 860 | 890 | 910 | 920 | 920 | 920 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 690 | 670 | 660 | 660 | 670 | 700 | 690 | 710 | 710 | 740 | 740 | 750 | 750 |
| Woodspring | 710 | 690 | 690 | 700 | 700 | 720 | 720 | 710 | 740 | 750 | 780 | 780 | 790 |
| Yeovil | 690 | 680 | 670 | 680 | 710 | 740 | 750 | 740 | 770 | 760 | 750 | 750 | 750 |

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.

[2] City technology colleges are excluded for 1997, 1998 and 1999, from the parliamentary constituency breakdown. They are included in the regional totals.

[1] A small number of teaching assistants are included in the South West region total but excluded from the parliamentary breakdown because the constituency of some institutions is unknown.

*Source:*
School Census

*Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies: Years: January 1997 to 2009: Coverage: parliamentary constituencies in the south-west Government office region (GOR)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South-west (GOR)[1,2] | 4,940 | 5,500 | 5,950 | 6,680 | 8,090 | 8,980 | 10,070 | 11,180 | 12,670 | 13,460 | 14,000 | 14,700 | 14,940 |
| Bath | 90 | 90 | 100 | 100 | 110 | 40 | 70 | 50 | 90 | 130 | 200 | 190 | 160 |
| Bournemouth East | 40 | 50 | 70 | 100 | 120 | 180 | 170 | 190 | 200 | 210 | 230 | 240 | 250 |
| Bournemouth West | 50 | 80 | 100 | 110 | 130 | 200 | 200 | 220 | 200 | 250 | 260 | 280 | 310 |
| Bridgwater | 130 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 180 | 220 | 240 | 210 | 230 | 310 | 330 | 300 | 290 |

*Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies. Years: January 1997 to 2009: Coverage: parliamentary constituencies in the south-west Government office region (GOR)*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bristol East** | 140 | 140 | 120 | 160 | 170 | 190 | 180 | 210 | 230 | 230 | 230 | 260 | 210 |
| **Bristol North West** | 220 | 220 | 220 | 240 | 260 | 270 | 290 | 330 | 340 | 360 | 380 | 420 | 350 |
| **Bristol South** | 220 | 250 | 220 | 270 | 300 | 310 | 300 | 350 | 390 | 360 | 390 | 370 | 280 |
| **Bristol West** | 80 | 90 | 100 | 100 | 130 | 150 | 150 | 180 | 180 | 210 | 200 | 200 | 140 |
| **Cheltenham** | 70 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 120 | 90 | 80 | 80 | 120 | 110 | 110 | 140 | 120 |
| **Christchurch** | 40 | 50 | 70 | 100 | 110 | 100 | 160 | 210 | 230 | 250 | 250 | 260 | 270 |
| **Cotswold** | 60 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 100 | 90 | 120 | 110 | 120 | 140 | 130 | 140 | 130 |
| **Devizes** | 80 | 90 | 90 | 110 | 120 | 150 | 140 | 220 | 180 | 200 | 200 | 280 | 370 |
| **East Devon** | 30 | 50 | 60 | 60 | 100 | 140 | 160 | 200 | 210 | 230 | 230 | 240 | 260 |
| **Exeter** | 100 | 120 | 120 | 140 | 190 | 250 | 290 | 350 | 350 | 370 | 380 | 420 | 490 |
| **Falmouth and Camborne** | 150 | 190 | 200 | 210 | 220 | 210 | 220 | 210 | 400 | 350 | 350 | 370 | 380 |
| **Forest of Dean** | 70 | 60 | 80 | 80 | 110 | 120 | 130 | 120 | 160 | 180 | 140 | 150 | 140 |
| **Gloucester** | 130 | 130 | 150 | 160 | 190 | 170 | 180 | 170 | 220 | 290 | 310 | 220 | 270 |
| **Kingswood** | 130 | 140 | 150 | 160 | 200 | 230 | 250 | 260 | 280 | 300 | 320 | 310 | 310 |
| **Mid Dorset and North Poole** | 60 | 80 | 120 | 150 | 170 | 280 | 270 | 300 | 320 | 350 | 360 | 370 | 410 |
| **North Cornwall** | 180 | 200 | 220 | 240 | 240 | 220 | 300 | 220 | 400 | 340 | 340 | 420 | 430 |
| **North Devon** | 90 | 100 | 100 | 120 | 160 | 210 | 280 | 310 | 340 | 370 | 380 | 400 | 430 |
| **North Dorset** | 70 | 100 | 90 | 140 | 150 | 200 | 240 | 300 | 320 | 340 | 340 | 380 | 410 |
| **North Swindon** | 100 | 120 | 100 | 130 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 220 | 190 | 210 | 260 | 340 | 390 |
| **North Wiltshire** | 80 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 90 | 140 | 150 | 170 | 180 | 200 | 210 | 260 | 280 |
| **Northavon** | 120 | 130 | 120 | 160 | 200 | 200 | 250 | 240 | 250 | 260 | 360 | 270 | 280 |
| **Plymouth, Devonport** | 120 | 160 | 190 | 170 | 370 | 320 | 380 | 350 | 350 | 470 | 420 | 430 | 320 |
| **Plymouth, Sutton** | 50 | 50 | 80 | 90 | 200 | 180 | 180 | 150 | 220 | 220 | 180 | 240 | 190 |
| **Poole** | 30 | 40 | 60 | 70 | 90 | 180 | 170 | 190 | 180 | 200 | 220 | 230 | 240 |
| **St. Ives** | 160 | 160 | 170 | 160 | 180 | 190 | 220 | 240 | 310 | 250 | 270 | 310 | 360 |
| **Salisbury** | 90 | 90 | 80 | 80 | 100 | 140 | 170 | 180 | 200 | 160 | 160 | 190 | 260 |
| **Somerton and Frome** | 100 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 140 | 150 | 180 | 150 | 180 | 240 | 250 | 160 | 210 |
| **South Dorset** | 60 | 80 | 100 | 130 | 180 | 180 | 200 | 280 | 290 | 310 | 340 | 350 | 380 |
| **South East Cornwall** | 170 | 190 | 200 | 210 | 200 | 170 | 230 | 270 | 370 | 330 | 330 | 390 | 400 |
| **South Swindon** | 100 | 130 | 120 | 140 | 160 | 80 | 100 | 200 | 190 | 170 | 190 | 230 | 230 |
| **South West Devon** | 50 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 180 | 210 | 250 | 230 | 260 | 300 | 320 | 300 | 250 |
| **Stroud** | 80 | 80 | 100 | 100 | 130 | 140 | 140 | 130 | 160 | 150 | 190 | 170 | 150 |
| **Taunton** | 140 | 150 | 160 | 170 | 210 | 240 | 220 | 240 | 280 | 300 | 310 | 260 | 270 |
| **Teignbridge** | 80 | 80 | 90 | 110 | 140 | 200 | 240 | 350 | 360 | 380 | 380 | 440 | 400 |
| **Tewkesbury** | 60 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 110 | 110 | 100 | 120 | 170 | 170 | 180 | 200 |
| **Tiverton and Honiton** | 80 | 100 | 100 | 110 | 160 | 220 | 260 | 300 | 320 | 330 | 380 | 390 | 420 |
| **Torbay** | 70 | 100 | 120 | 140 | 160 | 160 | 180 | 210 | 190 | 200 | 270 | 240 | 260 |
| **Torridge and West Devon** | 80 | 100 | 100 | 130 | 160 | 210 | 290 | 320 | 340 | 360 | 390 | 410 | 420 |
| **Totnes** | 50 | 60 | 60 | 100 | 110 | 140 | 170 | 260 | 290 | 320 | 280 | 300 | 280 |
| **Truro and St. Austell** | 130 | 140 | 170 | 170 | 160 | 220 | 220 | 250 | 390 | 360 | 350 | 400 | 410 |
| **Wansdyke** | 100 | 100 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 130 | 190 | 210 | 210 | 200 |
| **Wells** | 110 | 120 | 130 | 120 | 150 | 180 | 180 | 190 | 200 | 260 | 230 | 240 | 250 |
| **West Dorset** | 80 | 90 | 120 | 160 | 180 | 240 | 240 | 330 | 370 | 360 | 350 | 380 | 410 |
| **Westbury** | 90 | 90 | 100 | 80 | 100 | 140 | 190 | 210 | 190 | 200 | 200 | 270 | 310 |
| **Weston-Super-Mare** | 120 | 140 | 130 | 150 | 160 | 180 | 210 | 220 | 260 | 240 | 260 | 280 | 310 |
| **Woodspring** | 70 | 80 | 90 | 110 | 130 | 130 | 160 | 150 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 200 |

*Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies. Years: January 1997 to 2009; Coverage: parliamentary constituencies in the south-west Government office region (GOR)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yeovil | 130 | 130 | 120 | 130 | 160 | 140 | 180 | 200 | 210 | 270 | 270 | 300 | 240 |

[1] City technology colleges are excluded for 1997, 1998 and 1999, from the parliamentary constituency breakdown. They are included in the regional totals.

[2] A small number of teaching assistants are included in the south-west region total but excluded from the parliamentary breakdown because the constituency of some institutions is unknown.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

## Teachers: Training

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students are on a course at each relevant university to train as teachers in the skills for life sector; and if he will make a statement. [314089]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

Teachers of adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) who have the intention of teaching in the further education and skills sector are expected to hold a subject specific as well as a generic teaching qualification. They can take these as two separate qualifications by completing:

a generic teaching programme and then an additional diploma in the subject specialism;

an integrated programme that combines both.

Experienced skills for life teachers who do not hold the necessary qualifications can gain professional standing through the professional recognition route.

Latest available figures for 2009/10 report a total of 6,130 enrolments on skills for life teaching programmes at higher education institutions and with national awarding bodies. Further details of these enrolments are presented in the table.

*Note:*

The figures supplied do not disaggregate by university.

*Number of enrolments on Skills for Life teaching programmes—2009/10[1]*

*Higher education institutions and national awarding bodies in England*

| | *Integrated programme* | | | *Additional diploma* | | | *Total by provider* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *HEIs* | *Awarding bodies* | *Total* | *HEIs* | *Awarding bodies* | *Total* | *HEIs* | *Awarding bodies* | *Total* |
| ESOL | 730 | — | 730 | 1,080 | 80 | 1,160 | 1,810 | 80 | 1,890 |
| Literacy | 650 | 20 | 670 | 1,580 | 120 | 1,700 | 2,220 | 140 | 2,370 |
| Numeracy | 400 | — | 400 | 1,280 | 190 | 1,470 | 1,680 | 190 | 1,880 |
| Total | 1,780 | 20 | 1,800 | 3,940 | 400 | 4,330 | 5,720 | 420 | 6,130 |

[1] Provisional.

*Notes:*

1. Exclude further education colleges.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
3. Figures are provisional and subject to change.

*Source:*

Research Team, Lifelong Learning UK

## United Church Schools Trust: Finance

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has allocated any funding to the United Church Schools Trust in respect of sponsorships. [311380]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department pays the feasibility, implementation, running and capital costs of academies. Where applicable, academy sponsors make a sponsorship payment to an endowment fund to support the work of the academy or as a contribution towards capital costs. A table has been placed in the Library setting out funding paid to the United Church Schools Trust (UCST), which sponsors 17 academies. This funding has been allocated for the feasibility and implementation costs of some of their academies. Funding for other feasibility and implementation costs have been paid to the United Learning Trust (ULT), which is the multi-academy trust established by UCST to set up and run their academies. Sponsors are not permitted to make a profit from academies and any services they supply must therefore be provided at cost.

This reply corrects an error in PQ301251 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 100W, which said that the Department does not provide any funding to the United Church Schools Trust (UCST).

## Vocational Education: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16-year-olds completed a BTEC First Diploma in each subject in each parliamentary constituency in the south-west in each of the last five years. [314215]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Tables showing the number of 16-year-olds in each parliamentary constituency in the south-west who completed a BTEC First Diploma in each subject in each of the last five years for which information is available will be placed in the House of Commons Libraries.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital from accident and emergency departments for an alcohol-related diagnosis there were of people *(a)* under the age of 18 years in (i) the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority area, (ii) the East of England strategic health authority area, (iii) the West Suffolk Hospital NHS trust area and (iv) the Suffolk primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [314880]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, data from 2002-03 have been set out in the following table.

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area[1] | 316 | 393 | 399 | 394 | 364 | 378 | 321 |
| East of England SHA area | 687 | 807 | 838 | 831 | 847 | 865 | 699 |
| West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust area[2] | 30 | 50 | 53 | 37 | 31 | 49 | 46 |
| Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) area[3] | 93 | 125 | 126 | 93 | 81 | 92 | 83 |

[1] The figures for former the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA area for 2002-03 to 2005-06 have been constructed by combining North Peterborough, South Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland, Norwich, Southern Norfolk, West Norfolk, Broadland, North Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, Waveney, Ipswich, Suffolk Coastal, Central Suffolk and Suffolk West PCTs; those for 2006-07 to 2008-09 have been constructed by combining Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney, and Suffolk PCTs.

[2] Providers do not cover a limited 'area'. Patients treated at West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust could reside anywhere in England.

[3] The figures for Suffolk PCT for 2002-03 to 2005-06 have been constructed by combining Ipswich, Suffolk Coastal, Central Suffolk and Suffolk West PCTs.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care.

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315301]

**Ann Keen:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40 to 74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Blaydon constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Gateshead primary care trust (PCT):

96 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust, 99 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2007 and September 2008, the number of consultants at Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 101 to 114. Between September 2007 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 1,048 to 1,095.

Between September 2001 and September 2008, the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Gateshead PCT has increased from 62.8 to 77.7.

93.8 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Gateshead PCT opened its GP-led health centre in June 2009 in Blaydon. Blaydon GP led health clinic offers longer opening hours, meaning that any member of the public will be able to see a GP or nurse between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Blaydon will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—"Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities"—launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities—was published in January 2009.

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health" was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-97 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

### Capacitybuilders: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Capacitybuilders programme in each financial year since its inception; how much has been spent on consultants in respect of that programme in each such financial year; and how much has been paid out in grants to charities in each such financial year. [314514]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

Capacitybuilders is an Executive NDPB, accountable to the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The grant in aid paid by Cabinet Office to Capacitybuilders in each year since its inception is set out as follows. Capacitybuilders disburses grants to a range of third sector organisations: breaking this down between charities and other recipients would incur a disproportionate cost. Expenditure on consultancy as defined by the Office of Government Commerce has not been collated and analysed by Capacitybuilders prior to 2009-10, and could not be provided except at disproportionate cost. However, this information is being routinely collected from 2009-10 onwards.

| | *Grant in aid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 37,298,000 |
| 2007-08 | 32,800,000 |
| 2008-09 | 30,178,000 |

### Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Cleethorpes constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [315245]

**Ann Keen:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Cleethorpes constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (CTP):

97 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 98.8 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 120 to 141. Between September 2002 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 1,646 to 1,826.

Between September 2001 and September 2008, the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within North East Lincolnshire PCT has increased from 55.9 to 62.6.

97.9 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

North East Lincolnshire CTP opened its GP-led health centre in July 2009 in Grimsby. Quayside Open Access Centre offers longer opening hours, meaning that any member of the public will be able to see a GP or nurse between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It also has a partnership agreement with Open Door practice which provides a specialist service for patients unable to access traditional health and social care services.

A publicly funded £12 million new women and children's unit opened at the Diana Princess of Wales hospital in February 2004.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Cleethorpes will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

"The National Carer's Strategy"—Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities—launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities—was published in January 2009.

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health" was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-97 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

## Health

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the average body mass index of people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Suffolk, *(d)* Bedfordshire, *(e)* Cambridgeshire, *(f)* Essex, *(g)* Hertfordshire and *(h)* Norfolk. [314887]

**Gillian Merron:** "The Health Survey for England 2008 Volume 1 Physical Activity and Fitness" contains information on the mean body mass index (BMI) for children aged 2-15 and adults aged 16 and over in England. Table 7.3 and 13.3 shows the mean BMI for people in the East of England. This publication has been placed in the Library.

However, data are not available at county level for each area.

## Hospitals: Admissions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England and Wales aged under *(a)* 11 and *(b)* 16 years old and under have been admitted to hospital with (i) symptoms of alcohol poisoning, (ii) symptoms of substance abuse, (iii) stab wounds and (iv) gunshot wounds in each year since 1998. [314775]

**Gillian Merron:** The following figures show a count of finished admission episodes where the external cause code or primary diagnosis was stab wounds, gunshot wounds, alcohol poisoning or drug and alcohol misuse (substance abuse).

It should be noted that a count of finished admission episodes does not represent the number of patients, as a person might have more than one admission episode during a given period, e.g. someone may be admitted for a stab wound and alcohol misuse etc.

The data provided relate only to activities in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

The NHS Information Centre does not hold data relating to Wales.

Statistics from the NHS Information Centre show that each year since 1998 the following admissions have taken place:

*A count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was alcohol poisoning for children 16 and under, 1998-99 to 2008-09*

| | *Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age group* | | |
| | *0-10* | *11-16* | *16 and under (total)* |
| 2008-09 | 70 | 241 | 311 |
| 2007-08 | 82 | 294 | 376 |
| 2006-07 | 75 | 366 | 441 |
| 2005-06 | 83 | 438 | 521 |
| 2004-05 | 88 | 574 | 662 |
| 2003-04 | 98 | 592 | 690 |
| 2002-03 | 113 | 615 | 728 |
| 2001-02 | 105 | 733 | 838 |
| 2000-01 | 113 | 781 | 894 |
| 1999-2000 | 173 | 819 | 992 |
| 1998-99 | 189 | 812 | 1,001 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

*A count of finished admission episodes where the external cause code was gunshot wounds for children 16 and under, 1998-99 to 2008-09*

| | *Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age group* | | |
| | *0-10* | *11-16* | *16 and under (total)* |
| 2008-09 | 27 | 142 | 169 |
| 2007-08 | 26 | 201 | 227 |
| 2006-07 | 30 | 218 | 248 |
| 2005-06 | 27 | 189 | 216 |
| 2004-05 | 29 | 210 | 239 |
| 2003-04 | 56 | 277 | 333 |
| 2002-03 | 55 | 284 | 339 |
| 2001-02 | 55 | 339 | 394 |
| 2000-01 | 53 | 302 | 355 |
| 1999-2000 | 71 | 363 | 434 |
| 1998-99 | 50 | 278 | 328 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

*A count of finished admission episodes where the external cause code was stab wounds for children 16 and under, 1998-99 to 2008-09*

| | *Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age group* | | |
| | *0-10* | *11-16* | *16 and under (total)* |
| 2008-09 | 55 | 1,024 | 1,079 |
| 2007-08 | 56 | 1,188 | 1,244 |
| 2006-07 | 66 | 1,081 | 1,147 |
| 2005-06 | 49 | 994 | 1,043 |
| 2004-05 | 58 | 826 | 884 |
| 2003-04 | 70 | 780 | 850 |
| 2002-03 | 68 | 739 | 807 |
| 2001-02 | 69 | 664 | 733 |
| 2000-01 | 75 | 532 | 607 |
| 1999-2000 | 70 | 451 | 521 |
| 1998-99 | 74 | 357 | 431 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

*A count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis or the external cause code was substance abuse for children 16 and under, 1998-99 to 2008-09*

| | *Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age group* | | |
| | *0-10* | *11-16* | *16 and under (total)* |
| 2008-09 | 1,172 | 11,771 | 12,943 |
| 2007-08 | 1,255 | 13,375 | 14,630 |
| 2006-07 | 1,221 | 13,221 | 14,442 |
| 2005-06 | 1,280 | 13,645 | 14,925 |
| 2004-05 | 1,323 | 12,254 | 13,577 |
| 2003-04 | 1,262 | 12,305 | 13,567 |
| 2002-03 | 1,270 | 11,008 | 12,278 |
| 2001-02 | 1,137 | 10,869 | 12,006 |
| 2000-01 | 1,148 | 10,327 | 11,475 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,130 | 10,318 | 11,448 |
| 1998-99 | 1,104 | 9,276 | 10,380 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

## Local Government: Data

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to his Department. [314952]

**Phil Hope:** Data on adult personal social services expenditure from councils with adult social services responsibilities in England, are submitted annually to the Department on the personal social services expenditure return, known as the PSS Ex1. These are the only adult social care finance data submitted to the Department.

### Nurses: Schools

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified school nurses there are in schools in the London borough of Hillingdon. [315377]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not held in the format required. Information is available for the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work, directly employed by national health service organisations as of September 2008. The number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) is shown as follows, broken down into the two categories of nurses who have a specific qualification in school nursing and nurses who do not.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in the Hillingdon PCT as at 30 September 2008*

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| Hillingdon PCT | 22 |
| Qualified school nurse | 3 |
| Other first level nursing | 1[illegible] |

*Note:*

Qualified school nurses have a specific qualification in school nursing.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## JUSTICE

### Burglary: Sentencing

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of prison sentence for people convicted of aggravated burglary has been in the last five years. [315454]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is provided in the following table.

*Average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for aggravated burglary[1, 2] and total sentenced to life and indeterminate sentences 2004-08*

| | *ACSL[3]* | *IPPs* | *Life* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 52.4 | 0 | 3 |
| 2005 | 51.1 | 4 | 2 |
| 2006 | 47.2 | 27 | 4 |
| 2007 | 50.0 | 27 | 1 |
| 2008 | 50.2 | 28 | 0 |

[1] Theft Act 1968 S.10—Aggravated burglary in a dwelling.

[2] Theft Act 1968 S.10—Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling.

[3] ACSL excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

*Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

### Crime: Convictions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 17, (ii) between 17 and 21, (iii) between 21 and 25, (iv) between 25 and 29 and (v) over 30 years of age have been convicted of a drug offence in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [314745]

(2) how many people have been convicted of an offence involving violent behaviour on the rail network in each year since 1998; [314746]

(3) how many people aged 21 years or over have been convicted of an offence related to sexual activity with a child under 13 years old in each year since 1998; [314748]

(4) how many people aged *(a)* 18 years or over and *(b)* 21 years or over have received a caution for sexual activity with a child under 13 years in each year since 1998; [314750]

(5) how many people have been convicted of an offence arising from tackling an intruder in *(a)* residential property and *(b)* retail property in each year since 1998; [314815]

(6) how many people have been convicted of an offence of absconding by person released on bail in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [314817]

(7) how many people in each age group have been convicted of an offence relating to sale or use of fireworks in each year since 1998; [314820]

(8) how many people were convicted of an offence of *(a)* handling stolen goods and *(b)* fraud and forgery in (i) Greater London and (ii) England and Wales in each year since 1998; [314995]

(9) how many people in each age group were convicted for *(a)* rape, *(b)* attempted rape and *(c)* another sexual offence in each year since 1998; [314997]

(10) how many people in England and Wales were convicted of an offence of *(a)* causing death through careless driving under the influence of (i) drink and (ii) drugs, *(b)* driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above the limit and *(c)* being in charge of a vehicle when unfit through the influence of drink in each year since 1998; [315062]

(11) how many people were convicted of an offence of criminal damage in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [315070]

(12) how many children under the age of 16 years have been convicted of criminal offences in *(a)* each year between 1998 and 2002 and *(b)* 2008; [315092]

(13) how many people were convicted of an offence related to possession of a knife in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 2006; [315093]

(14) how many under 18 year-olds were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for (i) a sexual offence, (ii) robbery, (iii) criminal damage, (iv) a drug offence and (v) a violent offence in (A) 1998, (B) 2008 and (C) 2009; [315094]

(15) how many people have been convicted of an offence of impersonating a police officer in each year since 2006; [315097]

(16) how many males have been convicted for each offence involving violence against the person in each year since 1998. [315155]

**Claire Ward:** The available information has been placed in the Libraries of the House (tables 1 to 15).

The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Specific information on the circumstances of an offence are not held centrally and it is therefore not possible to identify whether an offence arising from tackling an intruder occurred in a residential or retail property.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn, 2010.

### Debt Collection: Powers of Entry

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to repeal the provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 which provide for *(a)* the extension of bailiffs' powers of entry and the use of force by enforcement agents and *(b)* charging orders to be granted when the borrowers are repaying debt in accordance with a county court judgment. [314964]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 959W. There are no proposals to repeal the primary legislation that allows for the extension of bailiffs' powers of entry and the use of force by enforcement agents. Neither are there any proposals to repeal the provisions which provide for charging orders to be granted when the borrowers are repaying debt in accordance with a county court judgment.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315135]

**Mr. Wills:** Following on from the Prime Minister's statement at PMQs on 8 October 2008, all central Government Departments have agreed to the target of paying 90 per cent. of small and medium-sized enterprise invoices within 10 days of receiving a valid invoice. The MOJ has been reporting its performance to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) since November 2008. The performance reported to BIS covers the core Department and its agencies and does not distinguish between small and medium-sized enterprises and all creditors. To attempt to break the performance down further between SMEs and all creditors by Department and its agencies would incur disproportionate costs.

In the five months from November 2008 to March 2009, my Department's performance against the 10-day target ranged from 55 per cent. to 67 per cent. of all creditor invoices being paid within this timeframe. From April 2009 to December 2009 I am pleased to be able to report that performance has significantly improved ranging from 82 per cent. to 93 per cent. of all creditor invoices now being paid within 10 days. The payment processes operated across the MOJ and its agencies are now operating to a level of consistency that has seen the Prime Minister's target being achieved for the last four months of 2009.

While I am pleased with this improvement, my finance teams across the Department continue to monitor performance and look to see if we can raise our performance level further.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been provided to his Department's staff on providing information about its staff in response to freedom of information and subject access requests; when this guidance was *(a)* produced and *(b)* promulgated; and who produced it. [314700]

**Mr. Wills:** There is no internal guidance which specifically focuses on providing information about its staff in response to freedom of information and subject access requests.

However, guidance available to the Ministry's staff on the handling of requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act includes guidelines on the disclosure of the names of staff working at the Ministry. These have been available since November 2009 and accord with the Information Commissioner's guidance on the disclosure of officials' names. In line with this guidance, all requests are dealt with on a case by case basis, and the disclosure of information considered accordingly.

### Drugs: Fines

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* average and *(c)* highest fine given to a person fined on conviction for possession of (i) cannabis, (ii) ecstasy, (iii) cocaine, (iv) crack cocaine and (v) heroin was in each year since 1998. [314818]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is shown in the following tables:

*Average, maximum and minimum fine amounts imposed at all courts for having possession of a controlled drug by drug type and year, 1998-2008, England and Wales*

| | Fine amount (£) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Drug type and year* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* | *Average* | *Number of persons fined* |
| *Cannabis* | | | | |
| 1998 | <5 | 3,060 | 78.27 | 15,503 |
| 1999 | <5 | 1,300 | 75.41 | 15,215 |
| 2000 | <5 | 3,350 | 74.87 | 13,638 |
| 2001 | <5 | 2,000 | 72.12 | 12,960 |
| 2002 | <5 | 2,000 | 66.27 | 14,123 |

*Average, maximum and minimum fine amounts imposed at all courts for having possession of a controlled drug by drug type and year, 1998-2008, England and Wales*

| *Drug type and year* | *Fine amount (£)* *Minimum* | *Maximum* | *Average* | *Number of persons fined* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | <5 | 5,000 | 70.58 | 15,172 |
| 2004 | 5 | 5,000 | 71.14 | 6,972 |
| 2005 | <5 | 5,000 | 73.65 | 6,316 |
| 2006 | <5 | 1,000 | 78.90 | 6,368 |
| 2007 | <5 | 1,400 | 80.93 | 6,839 |
| 2008 | <5 | 2,500 | 82.59 | 8,694 |
| *Cocaine* | | | | |
| 1998 | 20 | 3,000 | 168.37 | 1,003 |
| 1999 | 10 | 5,000 | 176.14 | 1,243 |
| 2000 | 20 | 2,000 | 204.30 | 1,117 |
| 2001 | 10 | 1,000 | 192.96 | 1,107 |
| 2002 | 10 | 2,000 | 176.06 | 1,332 |
| 2003 | <5 | 5,000 | 172.42 | 1,411 |
| 2004 | 20 | 2,000 | 172.20 | 1,516 |
| 2005 | 10 | 2,500 | 176.09 | 1,731 |
| 2006 | 20 | 5,000 | 179.31 | 2,055 |
| 2007 | <5 | 2,000 | 168.14 | 2,307 |
| 2008 | 8 | 3,515 | 172.52 | 2,839 |
| *Crack Cocaine* | | | | |
| 1998 | 10 | 500 | 136.07 | 192 |
| 1999 | 25 | 1,800 | 124.80 | 246 |
| 2000 | 25 | 1,000 | 132.82 | 265 |
| 2001 | 25 | 750 | 122.88 | 281 |
| 2002 | 20 | 500 | 128.98 | 394 |
| 2003 | <5 | 1,500 | 130.07 | 381 |
| 2004 | 8 | 1,000 | 135.04 | 328 |
| 2005 | 10 | 500 | 129.46 | 386 |
| 2006 | 20 | 1,500 | 138.92 | 392 |
| 2007 | 15 | 1,101 | 128.32 | 409 |
| 2008 | 15 | 1,500 | 133.68 | 572 |
| *Ecstasy (MDMA)* | | | | |
| 1998 | 25 | 2,500 | 169.25 | 408 |
| 1999 | 10 | 2,500 | 175.20 | 681 |
| 2000 | 10 | 1,500 | 165.76 | 1,038 |
| 2001 | 5 | 2,800 | 150.47 | 1,201 |
| 2002 | 10 | 2,000 | 160.38 | 1,078 |
| 2003 | 5 | 5,000 | 150.87 | 1,023 |
| 2004 | 10 | 1,000 | 152.60 | 840 |
| 2005 | 10 | 1,000 | 170.81 | 761 |
| 2006 | 15 | 2,500 | 163.60 | 672 |
| 2007 | 10 | 850 | 154.72 | 618 |
| 2008 | 15 | 1,015 | 160.72 | 404 |
| *Heroin* | | | | |
| 1998 | 15 | 1,000 | 117.01 | 1,505 |
| 1999 | <5 | 1,000 | 111.68 | 1,660 |
| 2000 | <5 | 2,400 | 115.14 | 1,715 |
| 2001 | 5 | 750 | 101.35 | 1,856 |
| 2002 | 10 | 1,500 | 100.24 | 1,758 |
| 2003 | 10 | 1,000 | 104.26 | 1,541 |
| 2004 | <5 | 1,000 | 103.55 | 1,405 |
| 2005 | 5 | 2,000 | 106.70 | 1,230 |
| 2006 | 10 | 1,000 | 105.38 | 1,159 |
| 2007 | 10 | 1,200 | 108.33 | 1,335 |
| 2008 | 10 | 2,000 | 110.70 | 1,478 |

*Average, maximum and minimum fine amounts imposed at all courts for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply by drug type and year, 1998-2008, England and Wales*

| *Drug type and year* | *Fine amount (£)* *Minimum* | *Maximum* | *Average* | *Number of persons fined* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cannabis* | | | | |
| 1998 | 15 | 3,000 | 219.07 | 244 |
| 1999 | 10 | 1,500 | 216.06 | 197 |
| 2000 | 25 | 2,000 | 306.53 | 163 |
| 2001 | 20 | 2,000 | 204.10 | 100 |
| 2002 | 30 | 3,000 | 246.50 | 103 |
| 2003 | 25 | 2,500 | 322.75 | 111 |
| 2004 | 20 | 5,000 | 382.63 | 79 |
| 2005 | 20 | 1,500 | 171.35 | 62 |
| 2006 | 35 | 3,500 | 307.07 | 29 |
| 2007 | 15 | 3,000 | 301.09 | 32 |
| 2008 | <5 | 3,015 | 322.52 | 48 |
| *Cocaine* | | | | |
| 1998 | 100 | 700 | 227.78 | 9 |
| 1999 | 50 | 500 | 271.88 | 8 |
| 2000 | 75 | 200 | 124.00 | 10 |
| 2001 | 50 | 250 | 136.11 | 9 |
| 2002 | 40 | 2,500 | 366.92 | 13 |
| 2003 | 30 | 750 | 215.53 | 19 |
| 2004 | 100 | 1,000 | 371.43 | 14 |
| 2005 | 50 | 4,000 | 670.71 | 14 |
| 2006 | 30 | 750 | 293.33 | 9 |
| 2007 | 30 | 1,000 | 326.05 | 19 |
| 2008 | 10 | 500 | 180.91 | 11 |
| *Crack Cocaine* | | | | |
| 1998 | 75 | 100 | — | 3 |
| 1999 | 125 | 200 | — | 2 |
| 2000 | 50 | 50 | — | 1 |
| 2001 | 100 | 300 | 190.00 | 5 |
| 2002 | 100 | 150 | — | 2 |
| 2003 | 75 | 75 | — | 2 |
| 2004 | 50 | 250 | — | 3 |
| 2005 | 50 | 1,500 | 321.43 | 7 |
| 2006 | 20 | 120 | — | 3 |
| 2007 | 25 | 60 | — | 3 |
| 2008 | • | • | • | 0 |
| *Ecstasy (MDMA)* | | | | |
| 1998 | 100 | 750 | 269.09 | 11 |
| 1999 | 75 | 2,000 | 359.06 | 16 |
| 2000 | 50 | 1,000 | 246.50 | 20 |
| 2001 | 100 | 1,500 | 403.00 | 20 |
| 2002 | 50 | 1,000 | 291.14 | 22 |
| 2003 | 40 | 1,000 | 356.46 | 24 |
| 2004 | 75 | 650 | 272.50 | 10 |
| 2005 | 100 | 1,000 | 500.00 | 8 |
| 2006 | 100 | 500 | 210.00 | 10 |
| 2007 | 250 | 2,500 | 678.57 | 7 |
| 2008 | • | • | • | 0 |
| *Heroin* | | | | |
| 1998 | 50 | 300 | 155.77 | 13 |
| 1999 | 50 | 500 | 194.44 | 18 |
| 2000 | 75 | 300 | 161.25 | 8 |
| 2001 | 25 | 600 | 163.75 | 24 |
| 2002 | 60 | 250 | 142.78 | 9 |

*Average, maximum and minimum fine amounts imposed at all courts for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply by drug type and year, 1998-2008, England and Wales*

| | *Fine amount (£)* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Drug type and year* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* | *Average* | *Number of persons fined* |
| 2003 | 60 | 2,500 | 455.00 | 12 |
| 2004 | 25 | 100 | — | 3 |
| 2005 | 80 | 300 | 155.00 | 5 |
| 2006 | 25 | 240 | 103.75 | 8 |
| 2007 | 25 | 100 | 65.83 | 6 |
| 2008 | 50 | 100 | — | 3 |

— = Figure suppressed as number too small to give meaningful average.

*Note:*

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice Ref: PQ(JSAS) 314818-10 29/01/10.

## Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been issued with *(a)* drug rehabilitation requirements and *(b)* a drug treatment and testing order in (i) England and Wales, (ii) Greater London and (iii) each police force area in each year since 1998. [314777]

**Claire Ward:** The drug treatment and testing order (DTTO), a community sentence aimed at breaking the link between drug misuse and offending, was rolled out to courts across England and Wales from October 2000, following successful pilots under the management of Merseyside, South-East London and Gloucestershire Probation Services from 1 October 1998 to 31 March 2000.

From April 2005, the drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) gradually replaced the DTTO as the primary means for adult offenders to address their drug misuse as part of a community order or suspended sentence order. The number of DTTOs and DRRs made in each probation area, including London, and across England and Wales in each year since 1998 is shown in the following table. It is not possible to provide data for each police force area. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Drug treatment and testing order / Drug rehabilitation requirement commencements*

| | *Pilot (Oct 1998 to Mar 2000)* | *Apr 2000 to Sept 2000* | *2000-01 (Oct 2000 to Mar 2001)* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Probation area* | *DTTOs* | *DTTOs* | *DTTOs* | *DTTOs* | *DTTOs* | *DTTOs* | *DTTOs* |
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | 36 | 98 | 122 | 168 | 246 |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | 8 | 59 | 68 | 97 | 102 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | — | 28 | 74 | 115 | 137 | 70 |
| Cheshire | — | — | 20 | 65 | 92 | 113 | 129 |
| County Durham | — | — | 8 | 61 | 92 | 119 | 97 |
| Cumbria | — | — | 2 | 54 | 62 | 72 | 53 |
| Derbyshire | — | — | 50 | 123 | 146 | 159 | 169 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | 16 | 121 | 157 | 205 | 162 |
| Dorset | — | — | 9 | 62 | 61 | 94 | 116 |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | 3 | 28 | 55 | 75 | 101 |
| Essex | — | — | 40 | 103 | 127 | 130 | 202 |
| Gloucestershire | 100 | 28 | 24 | 52 | 49 | 58 | 74 |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | 90 | 292 | 401 | 541 | 735 |
| Gwent | — | — | 0 | 89 | 82 | 124 | 170 |
| Hampshire | — | — | 30 | 131 | 181 | 231 | 188 |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | 24 | 62 | 74 | 101 | 126 |
| Humberside | — | — | 33 | 115 | 122 | 199 | 256 |
| Kent | — | — | 20 | 128 | 146 | 206 | 228 |
| Lancashire | — | — | 22 | 111 | 177 | 243 | 351 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | — | — | 21 | 112 | 119 | 169 | 228 |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | 26 | 54 | 84 | 119 | 106 |
| London | 42 | [1]— | 251 | 556 | 708 | 1,084 | 1,770 |
| Merseyside | 68 | [1]— | 65 | 178 | 175 | 283 | 393 |
| Norfolk | — | — | 8 | 47 | 84 | 118 | 111 |
| North Wales | — | — | 47 | 81 | 58 | 108 | 103 |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | 4 | 62 | 77 | 92 | 127 |
| Northamptonshire | — | — | 13 | 43 | 79 | 102 | 136 |
| Northumbria | — | — | 9 | 105 | 232 | 232 | 289 |
| Nottinghamshire | — | — | 95 | 173 | 193 | 243 | 224 |
| South Wales | — | — | 0 | 65 | 203 | 309 | 223 |

*Drug treatment and testing order / Drug rehabilitation requirement commencements*

| | Pilot (Oct 1998 to Mar 2000) | Apr 2000 to Sept 2000 | 2000-01 (Oct 2000 to Mar 2001) | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Probation area | DTTOs | DTTOs | DTTOs | DTTOs | DTTOs | DTTOs | DTTOs |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | 40 | 197 | 239 | 267 | 332 |
| Staffordshire | — | — | 11 | 97 | 101 | 158 | 187 |
| Suffolk | — | — | 12 | 51 | 77 | 87 | 80 |
| Surrey | — | — | 6 | 49 | 68 | 99 | 94 |
| Sussex | — | — | 20 | 96 | 141 | 201 | 249 |
| Teesside | — | — | 18 | 94 | 93 | 152 | 148 |
| Thames Valley | — | — | 4 | 210 | 165 | 246 | 341 |
| Warwickshire | — | — | 28 | 51 | 53 | 62 | 71 |
| West Mercia | — | — | 15 | 101 | 144 | 185 | 191 |
| West Midlands | — | — | 45 | 311 | 391 | 588 | 657 |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | 41 | 240 | 292 | 450 | 614 |
| Wiltshire | — | — | 4 | 53 | 40 | 93 | 74 |
| England and Wales | 210 | 28 | 1,246 | 4,854 | 6,145 | 8,519 | 10,323 |

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Probation area | DTTOs | DRRs | DTTOs | DRRs | DTTOs | DRRs | DTTOs | DRRs |
| Avon and Somerset | 125 | 199 | 9 | 287 | 1 | 276 | 0 | 574 |
| Bedfordshire | 45 | 63 | 2 | 103 | 0 | 131 | 0 | 115 |
| Cambridgeshire | 36 | 105 | 3 | 182 | 1 | 156 | 0 | 222 |
| Cheshire | 45 | 122 | 4 | 190 | 0 | 179 | 0 | 195 |
| County Durham | 38 | 70 | 4 | 138 | 0 | 228 | 0 | 174 |
| Cumbria | 20 | 64 | 1 | 99 | 0 | 93 | 0 | 84 |
| Derbyshire | 81 | 123 | 9 | 228 | 1 | 263 | 0 | 278 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 103 | 182 | 8 | 352 | 1 | 425 | 0 | 469 |
| Dorset | 56 | 70 | 5 | 120 | 0 | 144 | 0 | 182 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 42 | 82 | 1 | 145 | 0 | 131 | 0 | 141 |
| Essex | 89 | 175 | 3 | 294 | 0 | 346 | 0 | 359 |
| Gloucestershire | 39 | 50 | 0 | 79 | 0 | 180 | 0 | 162 |
| Greater Manchester | 235 | 936 | 40 | 1,205 | 4 | 1,128 | 2 | 1,236 |
| Gwent | 60 | 167 | 8 | 201 | 2 | 225 | 0 | 251 |
| Hampshire | 69 | 204 | 7 | 432 | 1 | 480 | 0 | 509 |
| Hertfordshire | 64 | 96 | 13 | 141 | 0 | 183 | 0 | 228 |
| Humberside | 90 | 256 | 7 | 316 | 0 | 314 | 0 | 394 |
| Kent | 107 | 204 | 6 | 310 | 1 | 416 | 0 | 502 |
| Lancashire | 136 | 365 | 13 | 504 | 0 | 520 | 0 | 658 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 64 | 245 | 12 | 345 | 2 | 300 | 0 | 376 |
| Lincolnshire | 65 | 115 | 7 | 205 | 0 | 186 | 0 | 224 |
| London | 772 | 1,445 | 57 | 2,877 | 9 | 2,768 | 1 | 2,698 |
| Merseyside | 214 | 334 | 29 | 595 | 6 | 630 | 4 | 669 |
| Norfolk | 40 | 90 | 6 | 190 | 1 | 197 | 0 | 205 |
| North Wales | 45 | 74 | 1 | 111 | 0 | 152 | 0 | 206 |
| North Yorkshire | 32 | 164 | 1 | 127 | 0 | 160 | 0 | 208 |
| Northamptonshire | 67 | 95 | 14 | 175 | 0 | 188 | 0 | 229 |
| Northumbria | 147 | 238 | 14 | 393 | 0 | 510 | 0 | 539 |
| Nottinghamshire | 118 | 307 | 4 | 350 | 0 | 392 | 0 | 385 |
| South Wales | 120 | 298 | 11 | 481 | 2 | 588 | 0 | 439 |
| South Yorkshire | 99 | 326 | 4 | 405 | 1 | 541 | 0 | 567 |
| Staffordshire | 74 | 282 | 6 | 391 | 0 | 345 | 1 | 428 |
| Suffolk | 16 | 67 | 1 | 90 | 0 | 104 | 0 | 99 |
| Surrey | 55 | 93 | 5 | 135 | 1 | 169 | 2 | 165 |
| Sussex | 103 | 150 | 2 | 262 | 0 | 326 | 4 | 337 |
| Teesside | 47 | 203 | 3 | 257 | 0 | 304 | 0 | 334 |
| Thames Valley | 178 | 241 | 26 | 484 | 4 | 610 | 0 | 557 |
| Warwickshire | 34 | 53 | 5 | 81 | 0 | 109 | 0 | 131 |

| *Probation area* | 2005-06 *DTTOs* | 2005-06 *DRRs* | 2006-07 *DTTOs* | 2006-07 *DRRs* | 2007-08 *DTTOs* | 2007-08 *DRRs* | 2008-09 *DTTOs* | 2008-09 *DRRs* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Mercia | 60 | 187 | 3 | 230 | 1 | 264 | 1 | 288 |
| West Midlands | 240 | 535 | 22 | 1,041 | 2 | 980 | 0 | 952 |
| West Yorkshire | 189 | 509 | 13 | 701 | 1 | 775 | 0 | 834 |
| Wiltshire | 57 | 101 | 4 | 153 | 0 | 149 | 0 | 132 |
| England and Wales | 4,316 | 9,685 | 393 | 15,405 | 42 | 16,565 | 15 | 17,735 |

[1] Central records were not kept of commencements in the interim period between pilot and full introduction of DTTOs across England and Wales in the London and Merseyside areas.

## Elections

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the effect on the financial markets of the election counts taking place the day after polling at the next general election. [314939]

**Mr. Wills:** No such assessment has been made.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to bring forward proposals to ensure that general election counts take place on the evening of polling day. [314940]

**Mr. Wills:** Rule 44(1) of the Parliamentary Election Rules in schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the returning officer shall make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting agents as soon as practicable after the close of the poll.

However, the Government recognise the obvious strength of feeling on this issue and we hope that it would be taken into account by returning officers, alongside other relevant factors, when coming to a final decision on the timing of the count.

## Electoral Register

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to encourage voter registration in the run-up to the next general election. [314761]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government implemented a range of measures in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006), to encourage voter registration. These include:

placing electoral registration officers (EROs) under a duty to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the canvass form more than once, inspecting records that the ERO is allowed to inspect, and making house to house inquiries;

establishing a funding mechanism to support novel and innovative projects and activities which EROs and returning officers take in line with their duty under section 69 of the EA Act to encourage electoral participation. The projects have used a variety of innovative methods aimed at encouraging people to register to vote;

providing for the Electoral Commission to introduce a performance standards framework for EROs. The standards provide a framework within which the performance of EROs can be assessed, and targeted work undertaken to drive up performance where necessary. The first assessments against these standards were published on 21 April 2009 and are available on the Commission's website.

I understand that the Electoral Commission is currently planning to run a voter registration campaign from 1 April-19 April (1-13 April in Northern Ireland). If the general election is held on the same date as English local government elections on 6 May, the campaign will coincide with the final few weeks to register to vote (registration deadline would be 20 April). If the election is held after 6 May, the Commission will run a second burst of advertising in the days leading up to the registration deadline.

The campaigns will be weighted to target under-registered groups including:

Young people aged 16-24

Recent home movers

People living in privately rented accommodation

Certain black and minority ethnic groups.

Students

If the election is called earlier, the Commission will launch the campaign earlier, and has plans in place for this.

The Electoral Commission has also made available a range of materials for local authorities to use in their own public awareness work in the run-up to the general election. These include advertisement templates and press release templates. The Electoral Commission's Do Politics site, which is used by local authorities in planning their public awareness work, has case studies of work that EROs have undertaken to encourage under-registered groups to participate in the democratic process.

The Government are also keen to find ways to enhance registration rates among service personnel to support their participation in the general election. On 26 January 2010, a statutory instrument was laid in Parliament which extends the service voter declaration period from three to five years. This is intended to facilitate higher levels of registration among service personnel. In addition, since 2005, the Electoral Commission has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Defence on annual campaigns to provide information to armed forces personnel and their families about registration, voting and elections.

## Firearms: Convictions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of a firearms offence for which a mandatory minimum sentence was applicable in each year since 1998. [314743]

**Claire Ward:** The available information is shown in the table.

Information on the number of persons convicted and sentenced from 1998 to 2008 for firearms offences liable for a mandatory minimum custodial sentence prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is shown in the table. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 prescribed mandatory minimum custodial sentences for the offences of: possessing or distributing prohibited firearms or ammunition and possessing or distributing firearms disguised as other objects, where the offences were committed on or after 26 January 2004. The data held by the Ministry of Justice do not indicate the date the offence took place or the age of the offender at that time, so it is not possible to determine the number of these cases where the minimum mandatory sentence was applicable. The number of offenders sentenced has been supplied in lieu of the number convicted.

This table is an extension of the information shown in table 2.9 of Sentencing Statistics 2008 available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

*Persons sentenced for firearms offences liable for mandatory minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[1], 1998-2008—England and Wales*

*Number of persons*

| | Total sentenced | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age of offender* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003*[2] | *2004*[2] | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| 16 to 17-year-olds[3] | 36 | 36 | 35 | 62 | 54 | 52 | 49 | 32 | 15 | 15 | 20 |
| 18 years and above | 995 | 764 | 694 | 677 | 718 | 834 | 688 | 353 | 265 | 249 | 340 |

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of: Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.

[2] The mandatory is only applicable for offences that occurred on or after 26 January 2004.

[3] Mandatory minimum for persons aged 16 or 17 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is three years. Not all of those in this age bracket would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum as they may have been under 16 at the time of the offence; it is the age at the point of sentence that is recorded on courts proceedings database.

## Hunting Act 2004: Prosecutions

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (a) prosecutions, (b) convictions and (c) cautions there were in 2008 for offences under the Hunting Act 2004. [315013]

**Claire Ward:** The number of offenders cautioned, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences under the Hunting Act 2004, in 2008 can be viewed in the following table.

*The number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[3], England and Wales, 2008[4, 5]*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Cautioned | 4 |
| Proceeded against | 44 |
| Found guilty | 33 |

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Came into force on 18 February 2005.

[4] The court proceedings statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

## Interpleader Actions

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many interpleader actions were commenced in the High Court in each of the last five years; [315449]

(2) when his Department plans to publish its new scale of fees for interpleader proceedings; [315450]

(3) how many fee assessment hearings relating to interpleader proceedings have been held in each of the last five years. [315451]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are no figures held centrally relating to the number of interpleading actions that were commenced in the High Court. There are also no counts of fee assessment hearings relating to interpleader proceedings in the county courts and High Court. These could be obtained through the examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

There are no plans to publish any new court fees in relation to interpleader proceedings. The current fees can be found in the Civil Proceedings Fees Order 2008 and the Civil Proceedings Fees (Amendment) Order 2009.

## Kingston Prison

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether Mr. Bernard Pennington of HM Prison Kingston received legal aid funding in respect of his claim against the Chair of the Prisons Independent Monitoring Board. [313369]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission has no record of funding this individual in this case.

### Knives and Firearms: Sentencing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of an offence of *(a)* knife possession and *(b)* firearms possession have received the maximum sentence applicable in each year since 1998. [314744]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is currently being collated and I will write to the hon. Member shortly with this information.

### Offenders

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of a criminal offence in England and Wales in each year since 1998 had never previously been convicted. [314821]

**Claire Ward:** Figures for offenders sentenced for indictable offences in England and Wales between 2000 and 2008 with no previous convictions or cautions are presented in the following table. These figures cover both adult and juvenile offenders.

*Offenders sentenced for indictable offences with no previous convictions or cautions, 2000-2008, England and Wales*

*Number and percentage*

| | *All sentenced offenders*[1] | *First time offenders*[2] | *Percentage of first time offenders* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 321,981 | 39,639 | 12.3 |
| 2001 | 320,888 | 38,450 | 12.0 |
| 2002 | 336,038 | 37,649 | 11.2 |
| 2003 | 338,344 | 36,785 | 10.9 |
| 2004 | 322,944 | 37,036 | 11.5 |
| 2005 | 308,289 | 35,688 | 11.6 |
| 2006 | 303,383 | 34,212 | 11.3 |
| 2007 | 313,811 | 33,979 | 10.8 |
| 2008 | 325,616 | 33,889 | 10.4 |

[1] Counts of person sentenced during the year. An offender may be counted more than once if he or she has been sentenced more than once during the year.

[2] Offenders who have never been cautioned or convicted previously.

These figures are taken from Table 6.4 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Figures prior to 2000 are not available.

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

### Parole

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is used by parole boards to decide on parole applications by prisoners serving *(a)* a life sentence and *(b)* an indeterminate sentence for public protection. [314778]

**Claire Ward:** The Parole Board is subject to the statutory test for release contained in section 28(6) of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 which prevents a direction for release unless the board is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public for the prisoner to be detained. Guidance is offered to the board by the Secretary of State's Directions and, procedurally, in the Parole Board Rules 2004, as amended by the Parole Board (Amendment) Rules 2009. In addition, the board provides its members with intensive training upon their appointment and at regular intervals during their appointment; and publishes internally, guidance on risk assessment and procedural issues. This applies equally to prisoners serving a life sentence or an indeterminate sentence for public protection.

### Public Holidays

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315115]

**Mr. Wills:** No official estimate has been made of the cost to the Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday. The financial impact is expected to be restricted to overtime payments for staff running services such as prisons that operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This cost will be quantified if and when an additional public holiday is agreed.

For most staff, salary costs are fixed and offices, courts and tribunals will not operate on public holidays. The impact of a lost working day would be managed by:

Prioritising urgent work and re-scheduling less urgent work.

Using the flexible working arrangements that are in place for most staff to ensure that urgent work and front-line services are not affected. These arrangements enable staff to work extra hours when necessary and recoup the time when less busy.

Senior staff absorbing the impact across the rest of the year at no extra cost to the Ministry of Justice.

### Tobacco: Sentencing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people convicted of an offence of selling tobacco to a minor have received *(a)* a fine, *(b)* a community sentence, *(c)* a custodial sentence and *(d)* an alternative punishment in each year since 1998; and what the (i) lowest, (ii) average and (iii) highest fine was for such people who were fined in each such year. [314819]

**Claire Ward:** The following table shows the total number of persons sentenced to a fine, community sentence, custodial sentence or an alternative punishment for each year since 1998. The data also show the average, maximum and minimum fine imposed on those sentenced for selling tobacco to a minor in each year. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

*Offenders sentenced and disposals for selling tobacco to a minor and the average maximum and minimum fine, 1998 to 2008*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fine | 115 | 90 | 113 | 74 | 67 | 82 | 50 | 56 | 51 | 49 | 70 |
| Fine % | 89 | 88 | 84 | 82 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 81 | 89 | 98 | 74 |
| Community Sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Sentence % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial Sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial Sentence % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Discharge | 14 | 12 | 21 | 16 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 22 |
| Discharge % | 11 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 19 | 9 | 2 | 23 |
| Otherwise dealt with | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Otherwise dealt with % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 129 | 102 | 134 | 90 | 77 | 93 | 57 | 69 | 57 | 50 | 94 |
| Maximum fine (£) | 2,000 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 2,000 | 1,650 | 2,500 | 2,000 |
| Minimum fine (£) | 10 | 10 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 35 | 30 | 40 | 60 | 50 |
| Average (£) | 226 | 237 | 349 | 301 | 283 | 322 | 274 | 328 | 330 | 324 | 374 |

*Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

### Victim Support Schemes

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has allocated to the National Victims Service in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [315347]

**Claire Ward:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) committed the Department to £2 million funding for the National Victims Service in 2009-10 and £8 million in 2010-11.

This is new money for victims which has come from efficiency savings within the Ministry of Justice.

## CABINET OFFICE

### 10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department has budgeted for the works in Downing Street covered by Westminster city council planning application with the reference 09/00619/LBC. [315202]

**Angela E. Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 964W.

### Charities

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will review the effectiveness of the statutory provisions which determine the circumstances in which charities are able to change their charitable objects; and if she will make a statement. [315444]

**Angela E. Smith:** For a charity in England or Wales to amend its charitable objects, it would usually require the Charity Commission's consent or a legal scheme of the court or Charity Commission. The Charities Act 2006 has recently modernised charity law, including the process under which alterations can be made to charitable objects. It is important that mechanisms exist with appropriate safeguards which enable charities to amend their charitable objects either to keep pace with changes to the environment in which they operate, or to enable them to expand their charitable activities.

A statutory review of the Charities Act 2006 is due to begin in 2011, and will report to Parliament. This will include examining the changes made by the Charities Act 2006 in relation to alterations to charitable purposes.

### Civil Servants: Manpower

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public bodies had their staff included in civil service headcounts in 2009. [315321]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 3 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning which public bodies had their staff included in Civil Service headcounts in 2009. (315321).

A list of public bodies included in Civil Service headcounts in 2009 is attached at Annex A.

*Annex A*

*Public bodies included in civil service headcounts in 2009 (Civil Service Employment Q3 2009)*

*Attorney General's Departments*

Crown Prosecution Service

Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Attorney General's Office

  - Serious Fraud Office
  - Treasury Solicitor
  - Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office
- *Business, Innovation and Skills*
  - Business, Innovation and Skills[1]
  - Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service
  - Companies House
  - Insolvency Service
  - Office of Fair Trading
  - Office of Gas and Electricity Market
  - Postal Services Commission
  - National Measurement Office
  - UK Intellectual Property Office
- *Cabinet Office*
  - Cabinet Office excluding agencies
- *Other Cabinet Office agencies*
  - Central Office of Information
  - National School of Government
  - Office of the Parliamentary Counsel
- *Charity Commission*
  - Charity Commission
- *Children, Schools and Families*
  - Department for Children, Schools and Families
- *Communities and Local Government*
  - Department for Communities and Local Government
  - Fire Service College
  - Ordnance Survey
  - Planning Inspectorate
  - Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
- *Culture, Media and Sport*
  - Department for Culture Media and Sport
  - Royal Parks
- *Defence*
  - Ministry of Defence
  - Defence Support Group
  - Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
  - Meteorological Office
  - UK Hydrographic Office
- *Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*
  - Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs[1]
  - Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
  - Food and Environment Research Agency
  - Marine Fisheries Agency
  - OFWAT
  - Rural Payments Agency
  - Animal Health
  - Veterinary Laboratories Agency
  - Veterinary Medicines Directorate
- *Export Credits Guarantee Department*
  - Export Credit Guarantee Department
- *Foreign and Commonwealth Office*
  - Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excluding agencies)
  - Wilton Park Executive Agency
- *Government Equalities Office*
  - Government Equalities Office
- *Health*
  - Department of Health (excluding agencies)
  - Food Standards Agency
  - Meat Hygiene Service
  - Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
  - National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies
  - NHS Business Services Authority
- *HM Revenue and Customs*
  - HM Revenue and Customs
  - Valuation Office
- *HM Treasury*
  - HM Treasury
- *Chancellor's other departments*
  - Debt Management Office
  - Government Actuary's Department
  - National Savings and Investments
  - Office of Government Commerce
  - OGC Buying Solutions
  - Royal Mint
- *Home Office*
  - Home Office (excluding agencies)
  - Criminal Records Bureau
  - Identity and Passport Service
  - UK Border Agency
- *International Development*
  - Department for International Development
- *Justice*
  - Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)
  - HM Courts Service
  - Land Registry
  - National Archives
  - The Office of the Public Guardian
  - Tribunals Service
  - Scotland Office
  - Wales Office
  - National Offender Management Service
- *Northern Ireland Office*
  - Northern Ireland Office
- *Ofsted*
  - Ofsted
- *Security and Intelligence Services*
  - Security and Intelligence Services
- *Transport*
  - Department for Transport
  - Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
  - Driving Standards Agency
  - Government Car and Despatch Agency
  - Highways Agency
  - Maritime and Coastguard Agency
  - Office of Rail Regulation
  - Vehicle Certification Agency
  - Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
- *UK Statistics Authority*
  - UK Statistics Authority
- *Work and Pensions*
  - DWP Corporate and Shared Services
  - Jobcentre Plus
  - Pensions and Disability Carers Service
  - Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission
  - The Health and Safety Executive
- *Scottish Government*
  - Scottish Government (excluding agencies)
  - Scottish Housing Regulator

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
General Register Scotland
HM Inspectorate of Education
Historic Scotland
National Archive for Scotland
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy
Registers of Scotland
Scottish Court Service
Scottish Prison Service Headquarters
Scottish Public Pensions Agency
Social Work Inspection Agency
Student Awards Agency
Transport Scotland
Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator
Disclosure Scotland
Scottish Law Commission

*Welsh Assembly*

Welsh Assembly Government
ESTYN

[1] Due to not having its own payroll, staff employed by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) are still reported, as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES), from the Department they were transferred from. DECC was created in October 2008, bringing together energy policy (previously with BERR—the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) with climate change mitigation policy (previously with DEFRA—the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for the No. 10 Downing Street website in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activity in 2009-10. [310213]

**Angela E. Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W, and to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1482W.

It is not possible to provide a single comparable figure for the running costs of the No. 10 website for 2008-09. However, the total cost of the Digital Communications Unit, which includes the operational and staffing costs, including equipment and audio and visual production associated with all digital communications, was £452,754 for the financial year 2008-09. This includes the running costs of the number10.gov.uk website which serves up to 1 million unique users per month, the Prime Minister's communications on channels such as Twitter (1.6 million followers) and YouTube (1.4 million film views per year); and the Government's e-petitions service (3 million signatures from 1.8 million unique e-mail addresses per year).

Figures for the 2009-10 financial year will be available only when the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for how long records of visitors to the Downing Street/Cabinet Office complex are retained. [312307]

**Tessa Jowell:** Records of visitors to the Downing street/Cabinet Office are currently retained for a maximum period of 10 years for operational/security purposes.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on its recent event held on HMS Illustrious; and how many staff from her Department attended the event. [315227]

**Angela E. Smith:** A search of all available records has been unable to identify any events held by Cabinet Office staff on HMS Illustrious.

### Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments were made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in respect of the provision of services to the Leader of the House's Office in each of the last 10 years. [315588]

**Angela E. Smith:** Since 2006-07 the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has not made any payments to the Newspaper Licensing Agency.

Following a machinery of government change, information relating to expenditure incurred by the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons prior to 2006-07 is available at only disproportionate cost.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people *(a)* started and *(b)* completed a course at an adult education college in each of the last five years. [314294]

**Kevin Brennan:** Adult education colleges are not specifically identified in data collected centrally. Programmes are delivered through a variety of different provider types.

The following table shows the number of adults participating and achieving in LSC-funded further education (FE colleges including Learn Direct, adult and community learning, work-based learning, Train to Gain) in each of the last five years, 2004/05 to 2008/09 (provisional).

*Adult (19+) participation and achievement in FE and skills*

| | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total Learners Participating* | 4,669,100 | 3,983,800 | 3,206,400 | 3,306,000 | 3,697,200 |
| Below Level 2 (excluding Skills for Life) | 2,097,300 | 1,031,800 | 589,500 | 532,500 | 427,000 |

*Adult (19+) participation and achievement in FE and skills*

| | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skills for Life | 940,100 | 979,400 | 809,900 | 826,500 | 938,700 |
| Full Level 2 | 395,000 | 441,300 | 516,300 | 740,100 | 959,400 |
| Full Level 3 | 228,700 | 264,200 | 267,600 | 328,100 | 423,300 |
| Level 2 | 1,348,700 | 1,235,300 | 1,118,400 | 1,319,400 | 1,542,600 |
| Level 3 | 598,700 | 524,900 | 485,800 | 528,200 | 619,300 |
| Level 4+ | 73,000 | 68,300 | 59,900 | 53,200 | 57,700 |
| No Level Assigned | 610,800 | 1,050,300 | 842,300 | 803,600 | 862,600 |
| *Total Learners Achieving* | 3,347,400 | 2,931,400 | 2,233,100 | 2,243,600 | 2,435,500 |
| Below Level 2 (excluding Skills for Life) | 1,551,600 | 758,100 | 430,200 | 406,500 | 317,500 |
| Skills for Life | 690,100 | 737,800 | 540,900 | 520,700 | 620,900 |
| Full Level 2 | 179,200 | 216,500 | 235,600 | 320,300 | 491,600 |
| Full Level 3 | 79,500 | 110,000 | 115,000 | 134,400 | 169,300 |
| Level 2 | 785,100 | 759,200 | 660,600 | 734,700 | 895,500 |
| Level 3 | 311,800 | 285,600 | 271,400 | 285,600 | 312,100 |
| Level 4+ | 33,100 | 33,100 | 30,300 | 25,800 | 26,700 |
| No Level Assigned | 512,800 | 866,600 | 689,700 | 682,800 | 652,800 |

[1] Provisional

*Notes*:

1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data is collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/demand-led-funding.htm
3. Tables use age as at 31 August of the academic year.
4. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated/achieved at any point during the year. Learners undertaking/achieving more than one course will appear only once in the 'total learners' category for each data collection. However, learners that are included in different data collections, whether that relates to different years or different funding streams, will be counted more than once. All learners undertaking/achieving a full level 2 or 3 qualification will also appear in the level 2 or level 3 category, respectively.

*Source*:

Individualised Learner Record

## Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315306]

**Mr. McFadden:** Since 2000, the policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and its predecessors have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. Examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on Blaydon include:

The levels of skills levels in the Blaydon constituency have increased significantly since 2000, with the proportion of people qualified to at least NVQ level 4 has risen from 15.4 per cent. to 24.7per cent. —an increase of over 60 per cent. Over the same period performance has increased from 77.4 per cent. to 82.1 per cent. at NVQ level 1, from 56 per cent. to 69.6 per cent. at NVQ level 2 and from 33.9 per cent. to 44.4 per cent. at NVQ level 3. Furthermore, the proportion of people in the constituency with no recognised skills has fallen from 17.1 per cent. to 11.7 per cent. over the same period.

*Source*:

2009 Annual Population Survey

Blaydon constituency residents are now also earning considerably more. The average gross full-time weekly earnings in the constituency has risen from £356.10 in 2002 to £457.20 in 2009, an increase of some 28 per cent.

*Source*:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Residence-based data

## Counterfeit Manufacturing: International Co-operation

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Intellectual Property Office are planning to attend the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations in Mexico in January 2010. [313943]

**Mr. Lammy:** One official from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) attended the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations in Mexico. The IPO is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and IPO officials represent the UK Government in intellectual property negotiations, including ACTA.

No other officials from the Department attended the negotiations.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers last discussed the proceedings of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations; when he next expects to meet Ministers who have a departmental interest in the negotiations to discuss the agreement's progress to date. [314019]

**Mr. Lammy:** I regularly meet ministerial colleagues to discuss various aspects of my Intellectual Property portfolio. I have not recently met other Ministers to discuss the proceedings of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade

Agreement negotiations, but relevant Ministers have been kept fully informed and briefed on its progress where necessary.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, on what date officials in his Department last met their counterparts in other Government Departments to discuss the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [314028]

**Mr. Lammy:** Officials in the Department last met their counterparts in other Government Departments to discuss the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement on 26 August 2009. Since this meeting officials in other Departments have been regularly briefed and consulted on the progress of the negotiations. The next meeting is planned for February.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, what information has been provided to businesses on the negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [314037]

**Mr. Lammy:** The officials have discussed with the European Commission and other member states ways to inform businesses and other interested parties about the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations. As a result of these discussions, the European Commission held a public consultation meeting on 23 June 2008, with a second meeting on 21 April 2009 and another planned soon. In addition, regular updates, including a summary of key elements under discussion, can be found on the website of the Intellectual Property Office.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, if he will make it his policy to seek the agreement of his negotiating partners the publication of the latest draft held by his Department of the anti-counterfeiting trade agreement. [314067]

**Mr. Lammy:** It is current UK policy on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement to seek the agreement of our negotiating partners to publish the draft text. However, it is the practice in trade negotiations that working documents are not disclosed without the consent of all the negotiating parties. Not all parties currently agree to the release of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) draft text. My officials continue to press for greater transparency with our negotiating partners.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors. [315068]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments will aim to pay invoices within 10 days. The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills commenced reporting of 10-day payment performance in November 2008.

In November 2008, 93.1 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. The latest available data are for December 2009, when 95.8 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. This means that payment performance has increased by 2.7 percentage points over this period.

We do not distinguish payments by supplier size as we have determined to pay all suppliers within 10 days.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials represented his Department at events abroad in each of the last five years. [314295]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not centrally record numbers or details of officials representing the Department at overseas events. The Department holds information on officials travelling overseas for business but does not specifically relate these costs to events abroad, to obtain this information would entail disproportionate costs.

The Department publishes details of senior staff on overseas business visits on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/board/expenses

### Educational Institutions

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* universities and *(b)* independent training provider institutions have been visited by Ministers in his Department since it was established. [314756]

**Mr. Lammy:** My noble Friend the Secretary of State has visited the following universities: Loughborough, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment Oxford, Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre Sheffield, Said Business School Oxford, Birkbeck College London, Birmingham, and Imperial College London.

I have visited the University of Edinburgh, Liverpool John Moores University (twice), University of Liverpool, University of Exeter, Bournemouth University, Birkbeck College London, Middlesex University, Arts University College Bournemouth and St. Mary's University College, London. Overseas I have visited Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), Emory University (Atlanta, USA), Howard University (Washington DC), Columbia University (New York), Kazakh-British Technical University (Almaty, Kazakhstan) and Kazakh National University (Almaty, Kazakhstan).

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has visited Swansea University.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment has visited the University of Cambridge, Bangor University (in his capacity of Chair of the Council), Judge Business School Cambridge, Royal College of Physicians, London Metropolitan University Business School, University of Sheffield, London Business School, University of Oxford, Loughborough University and University of Nottingham. Overseas he has visited Hong Kong University Business School and Shri Ramdeobaba Kamla Nehru Engineering College (Nagpur, India).

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation has visited the University of Surrey, University of Leicester, University of Oxford, Imperial College London and University of Cambridge.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations has visited Thames Valley University, University of Edinburgh, Middlesex University, University of Gloucestershire, University of Bedfordshire, University of Central Lancashire, University of East London and University of Bath.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform has visited Bristol University.

BIS Ministers have also made several visits to employer based training facilities that provide a variety of apprenticeships, onsite training provision and accreditation. They also engage regularly with the Association of Learning Providers, the representative body for Independent Training Provider Institutions, including attendance at their recent conference and have committed to speak at their annual conference later in the year.

## Fertility: Freedom of Information

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what requests for information on *(a)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, *(b)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, *(c)* reproductive cloning and *(d)* stem cell research were made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year since 2005; and what decision was taken on each such request. [313932]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June 2009 from the merger of the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

A search of all relevant FOI databases for the period was conducted.

During the period specified, only two FOI requests on topics *(a)* to *(d)* listed in the PQ have been recorded.

One request was received by the former DIUS on 10 February 2009. The response was that no information was held.

One request was received by BIS on 2 September 2009. All information requested was withheld under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) and s22 (information intended for future publication) of the FOIA.

## Fisheries: Compensation

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1142W, on Government departments: accounts, what the nature was of the direction in relation to property and notified regularity and the Icelandic Water Trawlerman Scheme; and if he will place a copy of the letter of direction in the Library. [314827]

**Mr. McFadden:** The direction authorised the then permanent secretary of the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make payments under the latest Icelandic Water Trawlermen scheme, which was subsequently launched in July 2009. I have placed a copy of the direction, which my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State issued to the then permanent secretary on 6 January 2009, in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Flexible Retirement

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who wish to continue working beyond the existing retirement age. [313677]

**Mr. McFadden:** The age discrimination legislation that we brought into force in 2006 was a significant step in helping older people in the employment market. The age regulations provide for a default retirement age of 65. However, we recognise that many older workers would remain in work past their normal retirement age if given that opportunity and the regulations give them a statutory right to request this opportunity.

According to the seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) in September to November 2009 12.2 per cent. of people at or above state pension age were in employment and this figure has grown in recent years. Other figures showed that 12.5 per cent. of people of that age were economically active and so were in the labour force. Analysis of the July-September 2009 Labour Force Survey shows that 1.8 per cent. of those who are economically inactive and are above state pension age would like to work.

## Further Education: Finance

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will tabulate the adult learner responsive budget in respect of each further education college in England for the years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [315747]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Adult Learner Responsive (ALR) budget is one of the funding streams currently supporting learners aged 19 and above across a range of activities, subjects and levels.

For 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years, the planned total ALR budgets (including employability programmes) were published in the Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 (November 2009).

| *Financial Year* | *Adult learner responsive budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 1.66 |
| 2009-10 | 1.75 |
| 2010-11 | 1.78 |

Spreadsheets detailing allocations of all funding streams, including ALR, to all FE colleges and training organisations for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years are provided on the Learning and Skills Council website under "Providers," "Funding Policy", and then "Allocations":

www.lsc.gov.uk

The allocation of the ALR budget (excluding employability programmes) to individual FE colleges for the 2010-11 academic year is currently underway. Initial funding calculations were communicated in January 2010 and provide an indication of the likely level of funding, to inform discussions between Skills Funding Agency account managers and individual FE colleges. After a national moderation process, confirmed allocations will be issued by 31 March.

### Google: Copyright

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will hold discussions with his French counterpart on steps which can be taken in cases of alleged breaches of copyright by Google. [314823]

**Mr. Lammy:** I discuss copyright issues regularly with my colleagues in member states and further afield in various forums. However, it would not be appropriate for the Government to intervene or give opinion on specific allegations of copyright infringement, as such considerations are a matter for the courts.

### Identity and Passport Service

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Cabinet Committee MISC 33 has discussed the procurement of the front office identity services subject to the Identity and Passport Service tender notice 2009/S 247-354963. [315510]

**Mr. McFadden:** Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when, how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed.

### Lord Mandelson

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date Lord Mandelson was appointed a Church Commissioner. [315233]

**Mr. McFadden:** Lord Mandelson was appointed a Church Commissioner on 5 June 2009, when he was appointed Lord President of the Council.

### Photography: Government Assistance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department *(a)* has taken in the last 12 months and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to assist the photography industry through the recession. [314494]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]*: I have been asked to reply.

Arts Council England supports photography through its regularly funded organisations and its lottery funded Grants for the Arts programme. In 2008-09 Arts Council England's funding to photography regularly funded organisations was £5,426,330. In 2009-10 this increased to £5,591,311 and will increase again in 2010-11 to £5,746,570.

Additionally, in 2008-09 Arts Council England made 106 photography awards totalling £1,145,574 from the Grants for the Arts programme.

As a direct response to the impact of the recession on arts organisations, the Arts Council also set up the Sustain Programme. The Photographers' Gallery was awarded £232,000 as part of this scheme.

### Post Offices

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates Cabinet Committee MISC 33 has met in the last 12 months; which additional Government services have been awarded to Post Office Limited as a result of that Committee's activity; and if he will make a statement. [314578]

**Mr. McFadden:** Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when, how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed.

The Government have demonstrated their commitment to putting business through the Post Office. The decision to award the Post Office a new contract for the Post Office Card Account, the decision by the DVLA to award the Post Office the contract for biometric data capture for the 10-year renewal of driving licences, the decision by UK Borders Agency to allow biometric enrolment for ID cards for foreign nationals at the Post Office, and the recent joint BIS/Post Office/Local Government Association conference on encouraging local authorities to make greater use of Post Office services, all demonstrate this commitment.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent guidance his Department has issued on the *(a)* requirement for Government departments to put out to public tender contracts that could be awarded to Post Office Limited and *(b)* grounds on which the award of such a contract is to be considered; and if he will make a statement. [314579]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department is subject to the legislative and best practice frameworks applying to public sector procurement and would conduct any procurement activity accordingly.

No specific guidance has been issued to other Departments on tendering contracts that could be awarded to Post Office Ltd.

The grounds of award of any contract will differ on a case by case basis but would be governed by the need to meet our legal duties relating to competition and the requirement to deliver best value for money to the taxpayer.

### Postal Services Sector Review

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received on the Hooper report on the postal services sector. [314856]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department met a range of stakeholders about the Hooper report. The general consensus of stakeholders was that Royal Mail must modernise if it is to secure its future and that the Hooper report's package of recommendations would secure the universal postal service.

The Government remain committed to the package of measures proposed by Hooper and we believe that this continues to offer the best prospect for achieving change and modernisation in Royal Mail.

Market conditions have made it impossible to conclude the process to identify a minority strategic partner for Royal Mail on terms that we could be confident would secure value for the taxpayer. When market conditions improve we will return to the issue, and we continue to monitor these conditions.

### Royal Mail: Pensions

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with the Communication Workers Union on Royal Mail's pensions deficit. [314855]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department has meetings with representatives of the Communication Workers Union on a regular basis at which a range of issues are discussed, including Royal Mail pensions.

### Students: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many individual applications for disabled students allowance have been made in the academic year 2009-10; and how many and what proportion of the received applications have *(a)* been processed and *(b)* resulted in an award being paid to the applicant on time; [307710]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of applications for disabled students allowance made in the 2009-10 academic year which *(a)* had not been reviewed and *(b)* were still pending a decision about an award on 1 December 2009; [307711]

(3) pursuant to the answer to Lord Addington of 5 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 372, on disabled people: student loans, when he expects the Student Loans Company to complete its review into delays in providing financial support to disabled students in the academic year 2009-10; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the completed review. [307714]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* I am advised by the Student Loans Company that, as at 25 January 2010, 19,224 applications had been made for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSAs) for academic year 2009-10.

Of these: 1,361 (7 per cent.) were received in the last three weeks and SLC is working though them to carry out an initial assessment of evidence of the applicant's disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty, to confirm their eligibility for DSA support; 5,179 (27 per cent.) are awaiting the result of an assessment at a specialist independent assessment centre to determine the specific help the applicant needs to undertake their higher education course; for 1,662 cases (9 per cent.) SLC is considering completed needs assessment reports; in 4,297 (22 per cent.) cases further information has been requested from the applicant; 218 applications (1 per cent.) were ineligible; payments have been made on 5,642 applications (29 per cent.) and for the remaining 865 (4 per cent.), payment will be made to the student once the necessary equipment or support has been procured and an invoice sent to SLC.

The percentage figures have been rounded to the nearest 1 per cent.. The total may not add to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

I refer you to my written ministerial statement to the House on 8 December. The report and statement can be found at the following URL:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/hopkin

### Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315636]

**Mr. McFadden:** Since 2000, the policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its predecessors) have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The implementation of BIS policy in Thanet, has been taken forward primarily by SEEDA and GOSE, working in partnership with the local authority and other relevant bodies.

There are no data on South Thanet as it is not a local authority and consists of a number of wards. Data for Thanet have been used to respond to this question.

Examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on Thanet include:

The stock of VAT registered businesses has increased from 2,420 businesses in 2000 to 2,835 businesses in 2007[1].

The proportion of business registrations (including VAT and PAYE) per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above has increased from 40.6 in 2002 to 48.4 in 2008.[2]

The number of business creation has also increased from 415 new businesses registering for VAT and/or PAYE in 2002 to 425 in 2008.[3]

The percentage of small businesses showing growth in employment has increased from 10.27 per cent. in 2003 to 13.78 per cent. in 2008.[4]

Levels of skills have changed in Thanet since 2001[5].

Performance at level 2 has increased from 57.5 per cent. to 58.7 per cent.

Performance at level 3 has decreased from 41.0 per cent. to 36.7 per cent.

Performance at level 4 has decreased from 23.0 per cent. to 19.2 per cent.

Specific data for South Thanet[6].

Between 2000 and 2008 the number of businesses units in the constituency of South Thanet increased by 600, which represents a 25 per cent. increase in business stock. This compares to an increase of just 14 per cent. in the South East as a whole over the same period.

Between 2000 and 2008 employment (excluding self employment) within South Thanet increased by 5,180, or 20 per cent., while in the South East as a whole employment grew by just 3 per cent. in the same period.

For further information on South Thanet specifically, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

[1] Extracted from NOMIS, source: BERR—VAT registrations/de-registrations by industry.

[2] Data produced by BIS and available on the BIS website:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/national_indicators/index.htm

[3] As above.

[4] As above.

[5] APS—Annual Population Survey data. The data on skills levels is subject to large confidence intervals at district level and shows variation on a year to year basis.

[6] Annual Business Inquiry 2008.

### Unemployment: Leeds

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of unemployed graduates of universities in Leeds who have received assistance from the Flying Start initiative in the latest period for which figures are available. [315574]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Flying Start - Make it Happen (MIH) initiative launched in September 2009 and delivered by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship has so far had registrations from 202 graduates from the University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University. 137 of these graduates have attended Make it Happen events in the area and 55 of these have pledged to start the self-employment and business start-up follow-on programmes.

No estimate can be made on the proportion of unemployed graduates receiving assistance from the Initiative until July 2010 when the Destination of Leavers in Higher Education survey results are published.

## TREASURY

### Capital Gains Tax

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue gain to the Exchequer of raising the rate of capital gains tax *(a)* for individuals from 18 per cent. to an individual's marginal income tax rate and *(b)* to 40 per cent. for trusts (i) while retaining entrepreneurs' relief in its current form and reintroducing indexation for inflation from March 1998 and (ii) while retaining entrepreneur's relief in each fiscal year from 2010-11 to 2013-14; how the estimated revenue gain to the Exchequer is distributed between (A) financial assets, (B) agricultural land and buildings, (C) commercial and industrial land and buildings, (D) residential land and buildings and (E) other non-financial assets in each year; and how the estimated revenue gain to the Exchequer is distributed between different marginal tax rates in each of those years. [313012]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* No such estimate has been made.

Due to the difficulties of assessing the large behavioural responses, which would result from changes of this kind, a reliable estimate can be determined only at disproportionate cost.

### Economic and Monetary Union

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Standing Committee on Preparations for the Euro last met. [315312]

**Ian Pearson:** The last meeting of the Standing Committee on Preparations for the Euro took place on 16 July 2004.

### Government Departments: Aviation

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 589W, on the Government Air Programme, what the provisional, estimated amount is that will be spent on domestic flights per year under the Framework Agreement; and how many flights that will entail. [312437]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1346W.

Data on volumes and the performance of the Government Air Programme is not available until the end of the financial year 2009-10.

### Income Tax

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the additional amount of revenue that would be raised in 2010-11 if higher rate income tax pension relief was abolished. [315725]

**Mr. Timms:** Latest detailed estimates of the annual cost of tax relief in relation to registered pension schemes are available in Table 7.9 on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

If relief on pension contributions were constrained to the basic rate of tax, the amount of this relief would fall by one third.

The estimates do not account for behavioural effects, which are likely to be large.

### Lehman Brothers: Insolvency

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his Department or *(c)* his Department's agencies have made representations to the US administration on the return to Lehman Brothers UK of its (i) funds and (ii) assets transferred to the US. [313909]

**Mr. Timms:** The administration of the Lehman Brothers group, including its UK and US subsidiaries, is a matter for the courts and the court-appointed administrators in the relevant jurisdictions. It would be inappropriate for the Government to intervene in independent, court-governed proceedings such as these. Where UK-based creditors have a claim against any part of the Lehman Brothers group, it is appropriate for them to present this claim to the administrators of the relevant entity in the appropriate jurisdiction.

### Non-domestic Rates: Aerials

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 779W, on non-domestic rates, how many mobile telephone masts were on the Rating List in each local authority area in 1997. [311744]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1146W.

### PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the National Insurance and pay-as-you-earn system to be completed; what the project's initial cost was; and what its final cost is expected to be. [315014]

**Mr. Timms:** The last major IT release for the National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS) will take place on 6 April 2010.

The original business case for the programme responsible for the delivery of NPS was produced in January 2007. This estimated the programme's cost at £262 million over the period 2004 to 2014, delivering estimated efficiency savings of £399 million.

Since 2007 there have been significant changes in the scope and delivery timeline of the programme including major changes to meet the latest security requirements. The overall cost of the programme is currently estimated at £397 million, covering the period from the start of the programme in 2004 to 2015, delivering estimated efficiency savings of £546 million over the same period. The programme's cost and efficiency savings estimates will be updated once delivery is complete.

### Revenue and Customs: Redundancy

**Mr. Curry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of people likely to accept a voluntary redundancy package as part of HM Revenue and Customs' redundancy programme; and what estimate he has made of the likely average cost per individual entitlement. [314321]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: On 13 January 2010 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced the next stage of its Workforce Change programme, which has been running since 2006. The announcement confirmed that HMRC will be vacating 130 offices during the 2010-11 financial year.

The 1,700 surplus staff in these offices who have not yet found alternative posts are now eligible to be considered for voluntary redundancy on compulsory terms; the best terms available under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Individual financial entitlement is dependent upon pay, grade and time in service. Whether an individual decides to accept these terms is a personal decision for them to make; an average cannot be calculated until these decisions have been made.

HMRC remains committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible and will make every effort to redeploy people who wish to remain in the Department.

### Valuation Office: Contracts

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what suppliers provided goods and services to the Valuation Office Agency in 2008-09. [314960]

**Ian Pearson:** A list of suppliers who provided goods and services to the Valuation Office Agency in 2008-09 will be placed in the Library of the House.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were purchased under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, (d) First Time Buyer's Initiative and *(e)* Social HomeBuy in each region in each year since 2005. [315675]

**John Healey:** The following tables are a breakdown of purchases from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

*2005-06*

| | *New Build HomeBuy* | *Open Market HomeBuy* | *FTBI* | *SHB* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 961 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 831 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London | 1,971 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | 139 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North West | 550 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East | 2,327 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South West | 929 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*2005-06*

| | *New Build HomeBuy* | *Open Market HomeBuy* | *FTBI* | *SHB* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 785 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 221 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 8,714 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*2006-07*

| | *New Build HomeBuy* | *Open Market HomeBuy* | *FTBI* | *SHB* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 1,211 | 277 | 0 | — |
| East Midlands | 810 | 52 | 0 | 3 |
| London | 3,549 | 988 | 10 | 24 |
| North East | 100 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| North West | 724 | 65 | 0 | 4 |
| South East | 2,844 | 873 | 6 | 2 |
| South West | 825 | 84 | 0 | |
| West Midlands | 651 | 137 | 7 | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 303 | | | |
| the Humber | | 31 | 0 | 12 |
| Total | 11,017 | 2,507 | 23 | 47 |

*2007-08*

| | *New Build HomeBuy* | *Open Market Homebuy* | *FTBI* | *SHB* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 1,770 | 455 | 0 | 4 |
| East Midlands | 1,301 | 70 | 41 | 2 |
| London | 4,786 | 627 | 149 | 76 |
| North East | 106 | 12 | 52 | 7 |
| North West | 905 | 190 | 24 | 34 |
| South East | 2,963 | 935 | 242 | 20 |
| South West | 1,317 | 345 | 95 | 2 |
| West Midlands | 1,339 | 145 | 124 | 6 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 393 | 97 | 92 | 6 |
| Total | 14,380 | 2,876 | 819 | 157 |

*2008-09*

| | *New Build HomeBuy* | *Open Market Homebuy* | *FTBI* | *SHB* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 1,106 | 1,011 | 29 | 2 |
| East Midlands | 982 | 250 | 138 | — |
| London | 3,755 | 1,424 | 225 | 38 |
| North East | 203 | 31 | 178 | 7 |
| North West | 762 | 256 | 13 | 23 |
| South East | 2,451 | 1,804 | 191 | 10 |
| South West | 1,177 | 719 | 190 | — |
| West Midlands | 971 | 426 | 88 | 12 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 413 | 295 | 19 | 1 |
| Total | 11,820 | 6,216 | 1,071 | 93 |

For New Build HomeBuy the table shows completions of homes built, as the FICA holds information on completions and not purchases. The first HomeBuy Direct sales were from April 2009.

### Building Alterations: Castle Point

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure the appropriate expenditure by Castle Point local authority of funds for independent living adaptations and equipment; if he will visit Castle Point constituency for that purpose; and if he will make a statement. [315448]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** All local authorities, including Castle Point borough council, are required to complete an annual claim and monitoring form to the Department and maintain financial records which are subject to auditing requirements for disabled facilities grants. In fulfilling the audit requirements local authorities have to be able to document that they have spent the grant appropriately.

### Building Alterations: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities which exhausted their allocated funds for independent living adaptations and equipment within a 12 month period in each of the last five years. [315453]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Buildings: Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of properties entered onto the non-domestic Energy Performance Certificate database to date have had an energy banding of G. [315677]

**John Healey:** Up to and including 2 February 2010 there have been 13,381 properties that have had Band G rated Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) lodged on the Non-Domestic EPC Register. This equates to 9.25 per cent. of the total non domestic EPCs lodged.

### Council Tax: Students

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that students undertaking the National Day Nursery Association Early Years Professional Status full-time Pathway training course in partnership with the Open University are exempted from liability for council tax; and if he will make a statement. [314830]

**Barbara Follett:** Full-time students are exempted from council tax liability and are disregarded in the calculation of the liability of the council tax payers with whom they live. It is for the relevant billing authority to decide whether an individual qualifies for the disregard and exemption. The Government do not intend to make special provisions for students undertaking the National Day Nursery Association Early Years Professional Status Full-time Pathway training course.

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313995]

**Barbara Follett:** Figures for *(a)* the amount the Department has spent on consultancy can be found in its published reports for the last three years here:

For 2006-07 spend (contained in chapter 10, table 4—page 115)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/2007-annual-report.pdf

For 2007-08 spend (contained in chapter 10, table 5—page 141)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/05.pdf

For 2008-09 spend (contained in chapter 10, table 13—page 165)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1281142.pdf

Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The amounts paid in *(b)* reimbursable expenses could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's agencies report the following expenditure on consultants:

| *FY* | *Planning Inspectorate* | *QEII Conference Centre* | *Fire Service College* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 1,173,485 | 206,432 | 821,774 |
| 2007-08 | 1,351,804 | 123,196 | 942,487 |
| 2006-07 | 1,604,378 | 173,540 | 1,444,602 |
| 2005-06 | 3,272,864 | 184,245 | 1,293,929 |
| 2004-05 | 2,824,932 | 97,782 | 1,224,406 |
| 2003-04 | 2,892,751 | 190,116 | 235,523 |
| 2002-03 | 3,774,926 | 38,499 | 75,616 |
| 2001-02 | 3,463,931 | 144,245 | 121,786 |
| 2000-01 | 1,453,263 | 81,448 | 77,696 |

Reimbursable expenses and these could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312423]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has spent the following on new furnishings:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 461,611 |
| 2008-09 | 504,003 |
| 2009-10 | 1,487,482 |

This is part of Open Space Works and Spaceflex projects which moves Communities and Local Government staff from two buildings into one, enabling savings of £4.5 million per annum on reduced operating costs.

The Department for Communities and local Government has not incurred expenditure on works of art in the last three years. Works of art displayed in Eland House are on loan from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions.

The Department has not purchased any new vehicles in the last three years.

### Empty Property

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 20 local authorities have the highest level of *(a)* long-term empty social housing and *(b)* long-term empty private housing. [306408]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The term social housing has been interpreted as social rented dwellings let by local authorities or registered social landlords. The term "long-term empty" has been interpreted as dwellings that have been vacant for more than six months.

Figures for the 20 local authorities with the highest proportion of social rented dwellings which are long-term vacant are shown in the following tables.

Estimates of the proportion of private dwellings which are long term vacant are not available. Figures for the 20 local authorities with the highest proportion of dwellings across all tenures which are long term vacant are shown in the tables. The reasons for homes becoming and remaining vacant are varied ranging from an over supply of accommodation, the redevelopment of an area to the standard of accommodation and in some circumstances individual failure to maintain a property in good repair. Numbers of empty properties within local authorities should not therefore be seen as a reflection of the approach adopted by local authorities to tackle these issues.

*Local authorities with the highest percentage of long-term empty social sector dwellings*

| *Local authority* | *Social dwelling stock* | *Social long-term vacants* | *Social long-term vacants as percentage of social dwelling stock* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Middlesbrough UA | 15,528 | 704 | 4.5 |
| Walsall | 26,634 | 831 | 3.1 |
| Oldham | 20,044 | 572 | 2.9 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 12,390 | 332 | 2.7 |
| Sunderland | 34,048 | 892 | 2.6 |
| Knowsley | 18,198 | 448 | 2.5 |

*Local authorities with the highest percentage of long-term empty social sector dwellings*

| *Local authority* | *Social dwelling stock* | *Social long-term vacants* | *Social long-term vacants as percentage of social dwelling stock* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Havering | 12,901 | 304 | 2.4 |
| Kingston upon Hull UA | 34,475 | 780 | 2.3 |
| Liverpool | 55,197 | 1,192 | 2.2 |
| Hackney | 41,767 | 878 | 2.1 |
| Newham | 29,311 | 605 | 2.1 |
| Hyndburn | 4,825 | 99 | 2.1 |
| Copeland | 6,435 | 122 | 1.9 |
| Mansfield | 8,750 | 163 | 1.9 |
| Teesdale | 688 | 12 | 1.7 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 36,697 | 596 | 1.6 |
| Bradford | 31,896 | 497 | 1.6 |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 10,271 | 158 | 1.5 |
| Hartlepool UA | 9,681 | 147 | 1.5 |
| Cheltenham | 6,746 | 102 | 1.5 |

*Local authorities with the highest percentage of long-term empty dwellings*

| *Local authority* | *Total dwelling stock* | *Total long term vacants* | *Total long term vacants as percentage of total dwelling stock* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pendle | 39,614 | 2,196 | 5.5 |
| Manchester | 213,965 | 10,972 | 5.1 |
| Salford | 104,325 | 3,960 | 3.8 |
| Teesdale | 11,797 | 446 | 3.8 |
| Durham City | 38,961 | 1,461 | 3.7 |
| Liverpool | 212,359 | 7,571 | 3.6 |
| Burnley | 40,585 | 1,427 | 3.5 |
| Bradford | 204,893 | 7,068 | 3.4 |
| Hyndburn | 36,319 | 1,246 | 3.4 |
| Wear Valley | 30,346 | 990 | 3.3 |
| Calderdale | 91,719 | 2,986 | 3.3 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 33,130 | 933 | 2.8 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 59,495 | 1,657 | 2.8 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | 14,171 | 391 | 2.8 |
| Bolton | 119,254 | 3,289 | 2.8 |
| Oldham | 92,639 | 2,440 | 2.6 |
| Derwentside | 41,516 | 1,086 | 2.6 |
| Macclesfield | 70,509 | 1,844 | 2.6 |
| Hackney | 96,596 | 2,467 | 2.6 |
| West Lindsey | 39,521 | 1,001 | 2.5 |

*Sources:*

Total vacants: Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities for October 2008.

Local authority: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities for 1 April 2008.

RSL: Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords for 31 March 2008.

## Housing: Prices

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings was in 2009. [315679]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The ratio of lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings in England in 2009 was 6.18, its lowest level in five years.

*Source:*

Land Registry and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ONS)

## Local Strategic Partnerships: Members

**Jacqui Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many boards of local strategic partnerships hon. Members are represented. [314154]

**Barbara Follett:** Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are groups of local organisations and their representatives which come together voluntarily to work in partnership for the benefit of the communities they serve.

A Survey of Local Strategic Partnerships conducted in 2008 reported that 50 per cent. are chaired by either the council leader or executive mayor and a further 6 per cent. by a councillor who is a member of a local authority executive (cabinet).

Local authority executive councillors were reported as being members on 94 per cent. of LSPs and non-executive councillors on 43 per cent. The survey also reported that 10 per cent. of LSPs included Members of Parliament or Members of the European Parliament.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by his Department on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme at the latest date for which figures are available. [315676]

**John Healey:** The Homes and Communities Agency will report spend through the Mortgage Rescue scheme in the normal way in their annual report for 2009-10.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties there were to which rateable values for petrol retail outlets applied in *(a)* in 1990, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2008. [311054]

**Barbara Follett:** There were 9,860 petrol filling stations in the rating lists for England as at 1 April 2000 and 6,040 in the rating lists as at 1 April 2008. Figures for 1990 are unavailable. These figures include all property recorded as petrol filling stations using VOA Special Category (SCAT) Code 209. It is not possible to identify and include in the figures hypermarkets and other properties retailing petrol. These are recorded under other SCAT codes. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The data for 1 April 2000 has been taken from the Valuation Office Agency operational database.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the economic effects of the 2010 business rates revaluation on the network of independent petrol filling stations. [314042]

**Barbara Follett:** As no decisions were required to proceed with revaluation 2010, no formal impact assessment has been prepared on its impact upon any specific sector. However, an impact assessment on the transitional arrangements for revaluation 2010 was published in July 2009.

In addition, ratepayers have received summary valuation information about their properties from the Valuation Office Agency. From 1 October 2009, ratepayers have been able to put their new rateable values into the business rates calculator on the Business Link website to see the impact of the revaluation for their property.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and the 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government. Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make his policy to postpone the implementation of the 2010 business rates revaluation for petrol filling stations. [314068]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]*: We have no plans to postpone the revaluation for petrol filling stations or any other class of property. The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more and will not raise a single extra penny for Government. Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

### Planning Permission

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010 to Question 314719, how long elapsed between issuing an Article 14 Direction and announcing his decision on whether or not to call in the application on each occasion where he has issued an Article 14 Direction *(a)* in each of the last five years, *(b)* in respect of airport-related cases and *(c)* in cases subsequently called in. [315746]

**John Healey:** As set out in my answer of 1 February, *Official Report*, columns 11-12W a total of 878 Article 14 Directions were issued over the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 January 2010. Listing the time period for each application between issuing the Article 14 Direction and the decision on call-in can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables summarise the information requested regarding the 4 airport-related cases and the 128 cases subsequently called-in:

*Airport cases*[1]

| | *Shortest time taken between issuing Article 14 Direction and call- in (calendar days)* | *Longest time taken between issuing Article 14 Direction and call- in (calendar days)* | *Average time taken between issuing Article 14 Direction and call- in (calendar days)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | [2]— | — | — |
| 2006 | — | — | — |
| 2007 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| 2008 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| 2009[3] | 32 | 32 | 32 |

[1] Excluding one case for which an Article 14 Direction has been issued but no decision has yet been taken on call-in.

[2] No cases

[3] To 31 January 2010

*All cases which were subsequently called in*

| | *Shortest time taken between issuing Article 14 Direction and call- in (calendar days)* | *Longest time taken between issuing Article 14 Direction and call- in (calendar days)* | *Average time taken between issuing Article 14 Direction and call- in (calendar days)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | [1]0 | 334 | 83 |
| 2006 | 2 | 147 | 51 |
| 2007 | 3 | 113 | 43 |
| 2008 | 3 | 73 | 41 |
| 2009[2] | 1 | 133 | 38 |

1 Same day
2 To 31 January 2010

## Property Development

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of permits that have been issued for building development on agricultural land in each of the last five years. [315583]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information on the number of permits issued for building development on agricultural land is not held centrally.

## Sustainable Communities Act 2007

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he will make a final decision on the 199 proposals shortlisted by the Local Government Association under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 sent to him on 22 December 2009. [314186]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government are consulting the Local Government Association in its role as selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and are seeking to reach agreement on which of the 199 short-listed proposals should be implemented. Many of the proposals are complex and raise significant practical issues but the Government are anxious to make progress as quickly as possible on those proposals that offer practical benefits and new ways of meeting local needs.

## Working Neighbourhoods Fund: Birmingham

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made in his assessment of the effectiveness of the use of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund in Birmingham. [314299]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received a report from the regional director of the Government office for the west midlands, outlining the ways in which Birmingham intend to improve their delivery of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) programme.

Improvements are being made but we still have concerns over the pace of the delivery of WNF programmes. The Secretary of State has written to the chair of Birmingham's LSP saying that issues that are impeding the delivery of WNF projects need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. We are determined that that the people of Birmingham should not be penalised for slow action by their local authority.

A further report on Birmingham and WNF will be provided to the Secretary of State in March.

# FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

## Iraq

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his predecessor received on resolutions proposed in the Italian Senate in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2003 recommending the exile from Iraq of Suddam Hussain; what steps his Department took in consequence; and if he will make a statement. [314891]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* We have no record of the former Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) having received specific reports on Resolutions by the Italian Senate concerning the possible exile of Saddam Hussein. This is however likely to have been part of the routine political reporting from our embassy in Rome. Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN provides that the Security Council shall decide what measures are to be taken to maintain or restore international peace and security.

## Pitcairn Islands

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has visited the Pitcairn Islands on official business in the last five years. [315452]

**Chris Bryant:** No Minister has visited in the last five years.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 5 February 2010*

## TRANSPORT

### M1: Road Traffic

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will instruct the Highways Agency to make improvements to junction 10a of the M1 to reduce congestion; what assessment he has made of the effect of such congestion on the flow of traffic on the M1; and if he will make a statement. [316066]

**Mr. Khan:** Junction 10a is the responsibility of Luton borough council as the Local Highway Authority. Improvement of the junction was not included as a priority in the East of England's February 2009 Regional Funding Allocation advice to Government.

The Highways Agency is working closely with Luton borough council to find an appropriate proposal for improvements.

### Roads

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles of road have been detrunked in each of the last 10 years. [316003]

**Chris Mole:** The lengths of road detrunked in the last 10 years under the New Deal Detrunking Programme are given in the following table:

| | *Route length detrunked* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Calendar year* | *km* | *miles* |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 444.6 | 276.3 |
| 2002 | 1,123.4 | 698.0 |
| 2003 | 568.2 | 353.0 |
| 2004 | 392.5 | 243.9 |
| 2005 | 111.6 | 69.3 |
| 2006 | 109.4 | 68.0 |
| 2007 | 80.1 | 49.8 |
| 2008 | 126.3 | 78.5 |
| 2009 | 126.8 | 78.8 |
| 2010 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3,082.9 | 1,915.6 |

The road lengths given above are for the New Deal Detrunking Programme and do not include the more routine detrunking that will occur after construction of a bypass or new road.

### Travel: Costs

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus, *(c)* train and *(d)* domestic aeroplane since (i) 1980 and (ii) 1997. [315796]

**Mr. Khan:** Between 1980 and 2009 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 17 per cent., bus and coach fares increased by 54 per cent. and rail fares increased by 50 per cent. in real terms. These figures are based on the transport components of the Retail Prices Index.

Between 1997 and 2009 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 14 per cent., bus and coach fares increased by 24 per cent. and rail fares increased by 13 per cent. in real terms.

The costs of travelling by air are not available from the Retail Prices Index. However, the cost of the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic flights fell by 35 per cent. between 1997 and 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Research

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and *(c)* other public bodies spent on each category of agricultural research in each of the last 10 years; [315151]

(2) what estimate he has made of public expenditure on research and development on agriculture as a proportion of total spending on research and development in each of the last 10 years; [315153]

(3) what proportion of publicly-funded research and development related to agriculture is *(a)* basic and *(b)* applied research. [315162]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Over the last 10 years research programmes and public funders of agricultural R and D (including DEFRA) have been restructured and comparable data across this period are not available by categories. The following table presents the food and farming R and D funding by the main sponsors (DEFRA, BBSRC and DFID) since 2003-04.

*R&D funding on farming and food per financial year*

*£ million*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEFRA agricultural R and D funding | 81 | 75 | 78 | 78 | 75 | 68 | 65 |
| Total BBSRC funding on farming and food research | 132 | 129 | 138 | 150 | 171 | 185 | 189 |
| DFID | n/a | 30 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 38 | 41 |
| Total | n/a | 234 | 254 | 264 | 281 | 291 | 295 |

*R&D funding on farming and food per financial year*

£ million

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Government (inc NERC, ESRC, FSA, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 368 | 365 |

*Note:*

DEFRA's research is primarily applied strategic. BBSRC's is primarily fundamental and DFID funds research in and for developing countries.

National statistics on R and D spend are presented per calendar year, and the latest year available is 2007. The following table compares the combined DEFRA, BBSRC and DFID funding on farming and food R and D with total spend on R and D between 2003 and 2008, indicating that Government expenditure in food and farming research has represented on average 1.2 per cent. of total R and D investment.

| Year[1] | Total Government expenditure on R and D in the UK (£ million)[2] | Year[3] | Defra, BBSRC and DFID funding on agricultural R and D (£ million) | Ratio (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | n/a | 2008-09 | 295 | n/a |
| 2007 | 25423 | 2007-08 | 291 | 1.14 |
| 2006 | 23410 | 2006-07 | 281 | 1.20 |
| 2005 | 22106 | 2005-06 | 264 | 1.19 |
| 2004 | 20242 | 2004-05 | 254 | 1.25 |
| 2003 | 19727 | 2003-04 | 234 | 1.19 |

[1] Expenditure shown by calendar year.

[2] Source: Office for National Statistics.

[3] Expenditure shown for financial year.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/tsdataset.asp?vlnk=532&More=N&All=Y

In 2007-08, over 68 per cent. of public investment on food and farming research and development supported applied (strategic and specific) research (based on the international Frascati coding definitions), with the remainder for basic research.

Source:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/~/media/publications/GO-Science/UK-Cross-Government-Food-Research-Strategy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the return on investment in agricultural research and development. [315152]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA has not carried out a full assessment of return on its investment on agricultural R and D. DEFRA R and D has been commissioned to develop evidence to inform policy development or develop solutions which underpin policy objectives.

In 2006 DEFRA assessed the rationale for investment in animal and plant genetics to underpin breeding. A review of returns on R and D investment[1] was commissioned to inform this assessment, which considered relevant UK studies and their estimates of the rates of return on agricultural R and D. These studies showed a great deal of variance in rates of return, which reflects both the length of time period studied and improvements in the estimation method employed, but the three most recent reported internal rates of return between 22-44 per cent.

Part of the economic benefit of investment in R and D arises from the support of research facilities which maintain strategic capabilities, and this is equally difficult to quantify. An independent report by DTZ consultants in 2008 estimated that the Institute for Animal Health work on bluetongue virus potentially saved the UK economy £485 million and 10,000 jobs in that year[2].

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[1] DEFRA (2006). The rationale for DEFRA investment in R and D underpinning the genetic improvement of crops and animals—Project IF0101:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14403

[2] The economic and social impact of the Institute for Animal Health's work on Foot and Mouth Disease:

http://www.iah.bbsrc.ac.uk/ecosoc/docs/Foot-and-Mouth-Case-Study.pdf

## Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315131]

**Dan Norris:** The Department produces statistics each month on the time taken to pay invoices and specifically within the 10 day target. This is reported to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which collects 10 day payment performance data for 22 Departments and shares collated data with key external stakeholders (such as the CBI and IoD).

In December 2009 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs paid 99.92 per cent. of invoices within 10 days. From data held centrally, the performance of Natural England was 100 per cent., Animal Health Agency was 100 per cent. and Marine and Fisheries Agency was 99.62 per cent.

# SCOTLAND

## Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by his Department to pay invoices from *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* all creditors in the last 12 months. [315127]

**Ann McKechin:** The Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments will aim to pay invoices within 10 days. The Scotland Office does not differentiate between creditors and endeavours to pay all valid invoices within 10 days of receipt. The Scotland Office have managed to meet this target so far in 99.1 per cent. of cases in 2009-10.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313825]

**Ann McKechin:** All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. The Office follows the relevant performance appraisal schemes for each of those parent bodies, and as such, all staff are subject to annual performance review. Details of the exact number of performance reviews undertaken would be a matter for the parent bodies. No staff are currently subject to poor performance procedures nor have there been any instances in the last five years.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Reprography: Paper

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average purchase price, excluding value added tax was of a 500 sheet ream of white A4 photocopier paper for use in the House of Commons; and how much the House of Commons Commission spent on photocopier paper in the latest year for which figures are available. [314938]

**Nick Harvey:** The House Administration spent a total of £129,506 excluding VAT on A4 80 gsm paper for use in photocopiers at an average cost of £2.15 per 500 sheet ream during the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since 1997. [315322]

**Mr. Simon:** There have been no instances since 1997 when the Minister in charge of the Department has provided the Department's Accounting Officer with written instructions in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through using external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available; [315213]

(2) how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315217]

**Mr. Simon:** Six vacancies were filled by DCMS through external recruitment during 2009. Our agency the Royal Parks have filled 14 jobs through external recruitment.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315214]

**Mr. Simon:** In the last 12 months neither DCMS nor the Royal Parks have used recruitment consultants for external recruitments.

### Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 777W, on digital broadcasting: Scotland, how many meetings with small local radio stations in Scotland have been held to date; and with which stations meetings have been held. [315682]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department has held two local radio summits with the commercial radio representative body RadioCentre, to discuss the effects of the Digital Radio Switchover with small station owners. This included representatives of radio stations in Scotland.

### Gambling: Licensing

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the power of local authorities to monitor the activities of licensed social clubs in respect of gambling and gaming. [315427]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There are no specific plans to review the power of local authorities to monitor the activities of licensed social clubs in respect of gambling and gaming. However, together with the Gambling Commission and local authority representatives, we will continue to monitor the operation and effectiveness of the regulatory regime established by the Gambling Act 2005.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a club premises certificate enables social clubs to facilitate the playing of poker games with cash prizes. [315428]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A Club Premises Certificate is issued under the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) and does not authorise social clubs to facilitate the playing of poker games with cash prizes. A certificate relates solely to licensable activities under the 2003 Act and does not confer any entitlements provided for by the Gambling Act 2005, such as offering facilities for gambling.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many prosecutions of unlicensed poker rooms by the Gambling Commission resulted in a conviction in each of the last three years. [315429]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** To date, there have been no prosecutions by the Gambling Commission against unlicensed poker rooms that have resulted in convictions. However, the Commission continues to work closely with local authorities to tackle illegal poker including, where appropriate, making objections to club gaming permit applications and taking enforcement action against poker played without the necessary authorisation. The Commission has also been working with the licensed trade to provide guidance on the regulations governing the playing of poker in pubs.

### Newspaper Press

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 290WH, on local authority newspapers, what the timetable is for asking *(a)* the Office of Fair Trading and *(b)* Ofcom to consider the potential impact of local authority newspapers on the paid-for newspaper market. [314941]

**Mr. Simon:** The Government are still considering their response to the Audit Commission's report on this subject and will respond in due course.

### Playing Fields: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to retain playing fields in Coventry. [315943]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Playing fields now enjoy the best protection ever through Government planning regulations and arrangements overseen by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Schools in England need permission from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families before they can sell any school playing fields or any part of a school playing field.

Under planning guidance, local authorities are required to protect all open space which communities need. Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting local authority owned playing fields. The latest published statistics for 2007-08 show that out of 1,287 planning applications proposing development on playing fields referred to Sport England in 2007-08, 96.3 per cent. led to improved or protected sports provision.

From 6 April 2009, the protection the Government provide for larger playing fields was also extended to cover smaller fields.

As a result of this change a local authority now has to consult Sport England on any planning application in relation to playing fields where the playing field includes a playing pitch of 0.2 ha where the proposal is likely to prejudice the use or lead to the loss of use of land being used as a playing field.

## JUSTICE

### Corruption: Public Service

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 13WS, on the UK Foreign Bribery Strategy, which Departments and agencies will be regular members of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board. [313743]

**Mr. Straw:** The following Departments and agencies are regular members of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board:

Attorney-General's Office, Association of Chief Police Officers, Cabinet Office, City of London Police, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Office, Crown Prosecution Service, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department for International Development, Export Credit Guarantee Department, Financial Services Authority, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, Office of Government Commerce, Serious Fraud Office and UK Trade and Investment.

Other Departments and agencies are invited as required by the agenda.

### David Kelly Death Inquiry

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 113W, on the David Kelly death inquiry, whether Lord Hutton made that recommendation after consultation with Dr Kelly's family; and whether Dr Kelly's family has been given access to the post mortem examination report. [316102]

**Mr. Wills:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 113W. No determination has been made that the medical reports and photographs connected to the death of Dr. David Kelly should be closed for 70 years. Rather, Lord Hutton requested that the post mortem examination report relating to Dr. Kelly not be disclosed for 70 years because he was aware of the distress that could be caused to Dr. Kelly's wife and daughters. Disclosure of information during the course of the inquiry to any party to the proceedings was a matter for the inquiry and is not a matter on which the Government are able to comment.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since 1997. [315324]

**Mr. Wills:** Since 1997 no written instructions have been provided to accounting officers of the Ministry of Justice or its predecessors, the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Lord Chancellor's Department, in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313998]

**Mr. Straw:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) collates dates on consultancy expenditure as part of its Consultancy Value Programme which assists Departments in driving greater value from Government's use of consultants. The Ministry's expenditure on consultancy for 2007-08 is reported as £56 million and can be found in the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

Expenditure for 2008-09 is £49.7 million and will be reported soon on the same website.

The OGC definition of consultancy is broad and includes professional services provided by, for example, lawyers, surveyors and architects and the employment of specialists on an interim basis to deliver project solutions, providing expertise for a defined period of time that is not available in-house.

Both the 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures reflect expenditure by the Ministry of Justice headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, and the National Offender Management Service (except for the Probation Service).

The Ministry was established in May 2007 so data are not available prior to 2007-08 in their current form.

*(b)* Expenses incurred by consultants in the course of Ministry of Justice business are normally included within their overall bills and are therefore included within the figures stated in part *(a)*. The amount attributable to expenses can be disaggregated from the total only at disproportionate cost.

The costs of business related travel and accommodation by consultants may sometimes be met directly by the Ministry through contracted booking agents or by Government Procurement Card. Occasionally consultants may also claim for reimbursement of expenses met, in the first instance, from their own pocket. It is not possible to identify amounts relating specifically to consultants in any of these cases without incurring the disproportionate cost of examining huge numbers of supporting records held locally across the business.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many consultants his Department and its predecessors and its agencies have employed in each of the last 10 years; and how many hours were worked by such consultants for his Department and its agencies in each such year. [314020]

**Mr. Straw:** The Ministry of Justice was formed on 9 May 2007. This merger included the former Department of Constitutional Affairs and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). NOMS previously formed part of the Home Office.

Availability of the data requested is therefore incomplete due to several machinery of Government and organisational changes which meant that procurement for my Department was not centralised prior to April 2009, and these data could therefore be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

However, a manual data collection exercise for the period April 2008 to March 2009 was concluded on 31 October 2009. The scope of the manual data collection exercise was limited to NOMS (excluding Probation) and Access to Justice (excluding Legal Services Commission) and did not cover any non-departmental public bodies.

Using the data received, there were 694 consultants/interim managers working for the Ministry of Justice in the financial year of 2008-09.

Limitations with the collected data only make it possible to provide the total number of consultants/interim managers for 2008-09 without any breakdown of the specific hours worked.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313237]

**Mr. Wills:** Currently, there are 520 employees in the Ministry of Justice (including all agencies) who are in transition after accepting a voluntary early departure on severance or retirement terms. The breakdown of staff across the Ministry is as follows: two from the Office for the Public Guardian, 308 from the Access to Justice group, 199 from the National Offender Management Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service, 11 from the Corporate Performance Group. The majority are due to leave the Ministry within the next two to three months and the terms are governed by the Civil Service Compensation scheme. There are also 185 employees across the Ministry actively seeking permanent re-deployment following organisational change programmes.

For the early departure, the term 'transition time' is defined as the elapsed time from a formal agreement to leave to the actual date of departure. For redeployment, it is the elapsed time from the re-organisation occurring to the individual taking up a new work post. The average transition time is 90 days. There are 10 staff who have remained on the redeployment list, as an exceptional basis, for longer than 6 months. Whilst employees are on the redeployment list, or have accepted voluntary early departure, they continue to undertake meaningful work duties.

The average transition time in previous years has been 90 days.

The department is unable to provide the average salary costs for staff in transition in each year. This information is not held centrally and obtaining it would incur a disproportionate cost as the department currently operates several pay and HR structures and would be reliant on a number of different sources to establish the information requested.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313827]

**Mr. Wills:** Staff employed by the Ministry are subject to differing performance management arrangements according to their terms and conditions and depending on which part of the Ministry of Justice or its agencies they are employed in.

For all employees, performance management is a continuous process with annual and mid-year formal performance reviews of progress against objectives. The Ministry's performance management system requires poor performance to be addressed when it occurs and not simply at specific points in the reporting year. Where appropriate, additional coaching and support is provided to employees to enable them to reach and maintain the required standards of performance appropriate to their roles. However, when employees are unable to meet and maintain acceptable standards of performance, sanctions up to and including dismissal are available.

*Senior civil servants*

Members of the senior civil service (SCS) are subject to a common performance management system based on relative assessment of achievement. Since 2007, the system has had four performance categories. Performance group four denotes performance not meeting the required standard. Prior to this, the performance management system had three performance categories: top, middle and lower tranche. The number of SCS employees receiving either a lower tranche or performance group four assessment is set out as follows.

| *Year of award* | *Number in lowest performance group* | *Percentage of SCS staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 15 | 5.9 |
| 2008 | 14 | 5.7 |
| 2007[1] | 8 | 5.6 |
| 2006[1] | 10 | 6.7 |
| 2005[1] | 12 | 9.1 |

[1] Refers only to former Department for Constitutional Affairs.

*Non-SCS employees*

Separate performance management arrangements (both in respect to in year and end of year assessment) exist for staff in grades below the SCS. Unlike the SCS, where employees are subject to relative peer group assessment with a guideline distribution between performance groups, below the SCS performance assessment is linked solely to the achievement of an individual's work objectives. Ministry of Justice (excluding the National Offender Management Services) employees receive annual performance appraisals that indicate one of three performance markings—"Outstanding", "Effective" and "Improvement Required". The number of employees receiving an "Improvement Required" or equivalent during the past five years is as follows:

| *Year of award* | *Number in lowest performance group* | *Percentage of staff*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 137 | 0.6 |
| 2008 | 107 | 0.4 |
| 2007 | 49 | 0.2 |
| 2006[2] | 25 | 0.2 |
| 2005[2] | 25 | 0.2 |

[1] The percentage does not reflect all poor performers in so far as the appraisal system does not capture those individuals who are exited for capability and performance reasons within a reporting year. The percentages are also different to the SCS position because the performance assessment basis is different.

[2] Figures for 2005 and 2006 omit staff from the former magistrates courts service who transferred to the Ministry in 2005. Details relating to these staff are included from 2007, following the introduction of common terms and conditions.

As the award of an unsatisfactory performance marking invokes poor performance procedures but does not directly result in dismissal it has not been possible to provide information on the number of staff who have left as a direct result of an "Improvement Required" rating during the past five years without incurring disproportionate costs. However, we can confirm that in 2009, of the 134 staff below the SCS who were judged "Improvement Required", 22 are no longer employed by the Ministry of Justice.

Appraisals are held annually for staff in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in grades below the SCS and there are four possible ratings: "Exceeded", "Achieved", "Almost Achieved", and "Unacceptable". The number of staff in NOMS who received an "Unacceptable" marking during the past five years, and the total number of recorded markings is as follows:

| *For year* | *Number in lowest performance group* | *Percentage of staff*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 96 | 0.22 |
| 2005-06 | 134 | 0.33 |
| 2006-07[2] | 79 | 0.25 |
| 2007-08 | 77 | 0.19 |
| 2008-09 | 72 | 0.16 |

[1] The percentage does not reflect all poor performers in so far as the appraisal system does not capture those individuals who are exited for capability and performance reasons within a reporting year. The percentages are also different to the SCS position because the performance assessment basis is different

[2] There were fewer markings recorded in 2006-07 due to a change in reporting systems.

Information on the number of staff who received an "Unacceptable" marking and then left NOMS within the following year is contained in the following table (departures could be for any reason).

*Staff receiving unacceptable markings who then left within one year*

| *For year* | *Number* | *As percentage of unacceptable markings* | *As percentage of all staff* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 45 | 46.9 | 0.1 |
| 2005-06 | 75 | 56.0 | 0.2 |
| 2006-07 | 37 | 46.8 | 0.1 |
| 2007-08 | 29 | 37.7 | 0.1 |
| 2008-09 | 10 | 13.9 | 0.0 |

NOMS processes mirror those in the rest of the Ministry in that performance management is a continuous process, based upon agreed objectives and in-year reviews. The "Unacceptable" marking does not automatically result in dismissal. However, employment may be terminated where the employee fails to meet the appropriate standard despite appropriate warnings and support. It has not been possible to provide information on the number of NOMS employees who have left the service as a direct result of an "Unacceptable" rating as the information is unavailable.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies spent on recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315292]

**Mr. Wills:** The majority of permanent recruitment is managed internally by the Ministry's HR function. For specialist or senior vacancies, it is sometimes necessary, however, to use recruitment consultants to access a wider pool of talent.

The Ministry's accounting systems do not separately identify expenditure on recruitment consultants. Payments to recruitment consultants are recorded within the wider categories of recruitment expenditure. To specifically identify expenditure on recruitment consultants would involve the disproportionate cost of examining a large number of invoices held locally across the business.

Additionally, recruitment consultants are usually involved in the continuing supply of temporary and contract staff where the fee paid represents the amount paid directly to the contractor, plus the agency's management fee which includes their charge for recruiting the contractor. The management fee element can vary depending on the terms negotiated for individual contracts. Fees to recruitment consultants for the continuing supply of contract and agency staff can only be distinguished from fees for specific recruitment campaigns at a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315331]

**Mr. Wills:** Payments by the Ministry of Justice for software application licences, for example for Microsoft Windows, include an amount in respect of core fonts used within the application. Software publishers license fonts from foundries and are responsible for passing on the royalty to the foundries from the licence fee. The element of the total licence amount that relates to fonts is not identifiable to the Ministry of Justice as the purchaser of the software application licence.

The Ministry of Justice does, however, make some payments directly in respect of the licence of specialised fonts used in publications. The amounts are not separately identified in accounting records. Payments are normally made via the Government Procurement Card and could be identified only at disproportionate cost by examining thousands of statements held locally around the business.

However, we are aware that £437 has been paid in respect of five font licences in the 2009-10 year to date by the Ministry's central design team which is responsible for group wide publications.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last 12 months. [315332]

**Mr. Wills:** For the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 the Ministry of Justice and its agencies, including the National Offender Management Service, filled a total of 4,175 job vacancies through external recruitment. The vacancies advertised were for permanent as well as fixed-term posts.

The Ministry recruits in line with the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles and is committed to recruitment on merit through fair and open competition.

### Driving Offences: Fines

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in other EU member states on the implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA on the cross-border collection of fines for motoring offences. [316000]

**Bridget Prentice:** My officials have been in contact with officials at the European Commission, the Scottish and Northern Irish Ministries of Justice both prior to and post-implementation of this EU directive. They conducted a webcast on 9 October 2009 in conjunction with SPARKS in which a member of the EC responsible for MRFP also participated; they attended a European workshop in Stockholm on 15 October 2009 organised by the Commission; and they visited their counterparts in the Netherlands' Central Authority (CJIB) on 4 December 2009.

### Fines

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications have been received from other EU member states for the payment of fines under the terms of the Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition of financial penalties; and how many such applications have proceeded to court. [315999]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Central Authority for England and Wales has received four mutual recognition of financial penalties (MRFP) applications from EU member states since the Framework Decision was implemented on 1 October 2009. These applications concerned offences in the Netherlands which were convicted prior to the implementation date and therefore had to be returned to the originating state. No applications have yet proceeded to court.

### Freedom of Information

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 351W, on freedom of information, if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that public bodies which enter into partnership with other public bodies are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [315621]

**Mr. Wills:** The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives the Secretary of State the power to extend the coverage of the Act, by way of a section 5 order, to organisations that he considers to exercise public functions or deliver public authority services under contract.

On 16 July 2009, the Government published their response to the consultation on extending the scope of the FOIA to cover additional bodies by way of a section 5 order. The Government response proposed an initial, focused section 5 order and noted their intention to consult Academies, ACPO, Financial Ombudsman Service and UCAS on their possible inclusion in such an order.

The Government are keeping the possibility of further section 5 orders under review.

### Injunctions

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W, on Trafigura: injunctions, when he expects to announce the result of his assessment of the effects of the practice of granting injunctions which prohibit the reporting of the grant of the injunction. [315309]

**Bridget Prentice:** At my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor's (Mr. Straw) request, senior officials at the Ministry of Justice have met with representatives of the national press to discuss the issues raised by the Trafigura case and the use of so-called super-injunctions generally. The Justice Secretary is considering matters in the light of this, including engaging with the senior judiciary. He will make a statement to the House after that.

### Knives: Sentencing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many retailers have been *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* fined and *(c)* imprisoned for selling knives to people under the necessary purchasing age in each police force area in each year since 1998-99. [315060]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is shown in the following table.

*Cautions, fines and custodial sentences for selling a knife to a person under age[1] by criminal justice area, 1998 to 2008*

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gloucestershire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hampshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hertfordshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lancashire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Cautions, fines and custodial sentences for selling a knife to a person under age[1] by criminal justice area, 1998 to 2008*

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leicestershire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lincolnshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London[2] | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Fines | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 31 | 15 | 11 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surrey | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sussex | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thames Valley | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Mercia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West midlands | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wiltshire | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dyfed-Powys | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

*Cautions, fines and custodial sentences for selling a knife to a person under age[1] by criminal justice area, 1998 to 2008*

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gwent | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Wales | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Wales | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| England and Wales total | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cautions | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Fines | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 6 | 29 | 41 | 29 | 22 |
| Custodial sentence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] 16 as enacted by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 amended to 18 by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

[2] Includes City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.

*Note:*

Where a criminal justice area doe not appear in the table there have been no fines, custodial sentences or cautions issued in any of the years shown.

## Land Registry

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties registered with the Land Registry have changed ownership in each month since January 2009. [315654]

**Mr. Wills:** Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of registered properties sold in each month from January 2009 to December 2009. As these figures are extracted using price paid data, no information is available for any properties which have not been sold. The only way to identify other changes of ownership would be to extract data regarding every application event over the time period asked for. This could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The figures are reflected in the following table:

| *Month* | *Vol sales* |
|---|---|
| January 2009 | 27399 |
| February 2009 | 28387 |
| March 2009 | 37423 |
| April 2009 | 40804 |
| May 2009 | 46142 |
| June 2009 | 53901 |
| July 2009 | 63382 |
| August 2009 | 58276 |
| September 2009 | 57838 |
| October 2009 | 64123 |
| November 2009 | 57613 |
| December 2009 | 66664 |

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the (a) mean and (b) median sale price in 2008-09 prices was of house sales registered with the Land Registry in each year since 2000. [315655]

**Mr. Wills:** Land Registry is able to provide data on the mean price paid of all residential sales registered in each year since 2000. Details of the percentage change on annual average prices has been calculated on the basis of the 2008 calendar year prices as the RPI data covering the 2008-09 financial year are not yet available.

This question has been answered on the basis of recorded sales figures in England and Wales. Land Registry does not hold the information requested on median price paid and could not produce it except at disproportionate cost.

The figures are reflected in the following table:

| | *Mean price paid in (£)* | *Mean price paid in £ (adjusted to 2008 prices)[1]* | *RPI index (1987 = 100)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 108,164 | 136,428 | 170.3 |
| 2001 | 119,275 | 147,838 | 173.3 |
| 2002 | 138,200 | 168,475 | 176.2 |
| 2003 | 156,154 | 185,008 | 181.3 |
| 2004 | 178,542 | 205,414 | 186.7 |
| 2005 | 189,500 | 212,093 | 192 |
| 2006 | 203,708 | 220,881 | 198.1 |
| 2007 | 219,408 | 228,116 | 206.6 |
| 2008 | 217,010 | 217,010 | 214.8 |
| 2009 | 213,370 | 214,468 | 213.7 |

[1] Prices adjusted using the UK all items Retail Prices Index (RPI)

## Youth Justice Board and Legal Services Commission: Sick Leave

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of working days lost per employee at *(a)* the Legal Services Commission and *(b)* the Youth Justice Board in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps he is taking to reduce levels of staff absence at each body. [312509]

**Bridget Prentice:** The average number of days taken as sickness absence at the Legal Services Commission during 2008-09 was 7.98 per employee. This has decreased from 9.17 in 2007-08 and 10.7 in 2006-07.

The LSC has been reviewing its absence policy year-on-year in order to reduce absence levels. The target for 2009-10 is 7.66 days (a 4 per cent. reduction on 2008-09). Following the most recent review in 2009, online training has been further developed to support managers and absence trigger points (where the return to work meeting between the manager and employee become a more formal process) have been lowered to seven days. An absence panel has been set up to review any long-term sickness absence and ensure support systems such as occupational health referrals, home visits and the employee assistance programme are in place.

No days are recorded as having been lost as a result of staff being unable to make it to work due to adverse weather conditions or travel disruption as it is the LSC's policy to give line managers the flexibility to authorise home working where appropriate or convert any absences in these circumstances into annual, flexible or special leave.

In 2008-09, the average number of days taken as sickness absence at the Youth Justice Board was 3.7 days per employee. It has a robust attendance management policy in place outlining clearly line managers' responsibilities to support staff, manage absence and the actions they need to take at different trigger points. This includes interventions at cumulative absence and consecutive absence points, the requirement to conduct documented "return to work" interviews, line manager and/or occupational health and welfare services contact and formalised case conferences.

The YJB's HR team works closely with line managers across the business to monitor instances of sickness absences and provide advice, support and interventions, where necessary, to reduce the level of sickness absence even further. Sickness absence figures are also included in the YJB's "Organisational Health Indicators".

In addition the YJB runs a health and well-being programme to encourage staff to be aware of the health and fitness and take steps to improve their well-being. This includes access to eye tests, cycle to work schemes, discounted gym memberships, advice on tackling stress and access to health screening.

No days are recorded as having been lost as a result of staff being unable to make it to work due to adverse weather conditions or travel disruption as it is the YJB's policy to give line managers the flexibility to authorise home working where appropriate or convert any absences in these circumstances into annual, flexible or special leave.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### British Council

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of *(a)* IT for his Department and *(b)* the finance function for the British Council referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312682]

**Chris Bryant:** The information requested is as follows:

*Cost of IT for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)*

The figures reported in 'Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government' equate to costs of £115 million in running and maintaining the FCO IT estate in 2008-2009. This reflects the fact that the FCO operates over a substantial global network on behalf of the Government overseas and needs to conform to strict security standards. The figure also includes temporary costs related to the transformation of our IT platforms. We expect IT costs to reduce following completion of this transformation.

*Finance function for the British Council*

The figures reported in 'Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government' report were based on the British Council's published 2008-09 statutory accounts and include all UK and overseas transaction processing staff, corporate finance, management accounting, tax, treasury and training staff together with their share of IT and accommodation costs.

The British Council has embarked on a programme to double its cultural relations impact. This includes a global finance transformation project to ensure effective and efficient support services, which will deliver improved service quality and increased efficiency with significantly lower transactional costs.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315132]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments would aim to pay invoices within 10 days.

In December 2009, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services (its Trading Fund) together paid 97.5 per cent. of invoices within 10 days. This performance is an increase of 27.2 per cent. points compared to November 2008, when 70.3 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days.

We do not differentiate payments by supplier size as we have determined to pay all suppliers within 10 days.

This response relates to the FCO in the UK. Information regarding the status of suppliers overseas is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315504]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no font licensing agreements and no expenditure was incurred on font licensing in the last three years.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department and its agencies have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315567]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information centrally and it is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313241]

**Chris Bryant:** As there were fewer than five cases, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, details are not provided to avoid revealing the identity of individuals and on grounds of confidentiality.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315503]

**Chris Bryant:** Since February 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has filled 211 vacancies through external recruitment.

In the same period the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also filled one vacancy at the Imperial War Museum through external recruitment.

### European Council

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will propose at the next meeting of the European Council at which the proposed inter-governmental conference is to be discussed, amendments under Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union to *(a)* assert the sovereignty of the UK and *(b)* ensure that the Declaration of Primacy No. 17 of the Lisbon Treaty shall not be deemed as being capable of being construed by UK courts as preventing Parliament (i) legislating expressly and inconsistently with and (ii) amending or overriding European legislation. [315344]

**Chris Bryant:** No.

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons he agreed at the meeting of the European Council in December 2009 to request that the European Parliament should not convene an intergovernmental conference; and if he will make it his policy to seek such a conference to be convened. [315345]

**Chris Bryant:** The European Parliament has no power to convene an intergovernmental conference.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the UN in respect of the rules of engagement in the *(a)* Southern and *(b)* Northern No Fly Zones in Iraq between 1998 and 2002; [315619]

(2) what representations his Department has received in respect of the rules of engagement in the Southern No Fly Zones in Iraq between 1998 and 2002. [315620]

**Chris Bryant:** During the period in question the Department had a number of discussions with the UN and allies on the No Fly Zones in Iraq. The zones, established in support of UN Security Council Resolution 688, were justified under international law in response to a situation of overwhelming humanitarian necessity due to Saddam Hussein's violent oppression of Iraq's minority communities. Between 1998 and 2002 Saddam Hussein waged a systematic campaign against UK (and US) aircraft carrying out patrols—violating the No Fly Zones—designed to prevent a return to the brutal repression of the Kurdish and other minorities in the north and the Shi'a in the south. Our aircraft were authorised to respond to attacks solely in self-defence. All such defensive action was strictly limited to proportional responses against Iraqi weapons and facilities that posed a direct threat to coalition forces. My hon. Friend the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Lewis) will write to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley with more detail on the representations made between 1998 and 2002.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 468W, on Palestinians: overseas aid, what assessment he has made of whether Israel is in compliance with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention in respect of the population of Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [314058]

**Chris Bryant:** We have serious concerns about the Israeli restrictions on Gaza and the impact they have on the lives of Gazans. Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, Israel retains obligations under the fourth Geneva convention as an occupying power. The fourth Geneva convention is clear that an occupying power must co-operate in allowing the passage and distribution of relief consignments. The restrictions currently imposed on the passage of relief supplies are, as we see it, a disproportionate response to the security threat.

We have consistently pressed the Israeli Government to comply with their obligations under international law and allow passage of relief supplies. Although aid is entering Gaza, according to the UN this is insufficient to meet the needs of the Gazan people.

### USA

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to make an official visit to the United States. [315933]

**Chris Bryant:** For security and operational reasons, we do not announce visits by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary significantly in advance.

### USA: Nuclear Weapons

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US administration on stockpiles of nuclear weapons; and what his policy is on the steps to be taken by the Government and the US administration on reducing such stockpiles. [315931]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regularly discuss nuclear issues, and UK officials frequently discuss with the US the implementation of all aspects of the non-proliferation treaty including our article VI disarmament obligations.

We look forward to an agreement between the US and Russia to achieve significant cuts in their nuclear arsenals by agreeing a successor to the strategic arms reduction treaty. This will be a major contribution to our shared endeavour towards a world without nuclear weapons, and will help to build trust and pave the way for greater reductions.

The UK has taken a number of significant disarmament steps in recent years, and is committed to retaining only the minimum credible nuclear deterrent capability; we regularly review the number of warheads in the UK stockpile in that light. The UK firmly believes that sustainable global nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through a multilateral process, and stands ready to engage in a broader multilateral process when the conditions are right.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on international nuclear proliferation. [315932]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses a range of international nuclear proliferation issues regularly with Secretary of State Clinton and the US Administration and did so most recently on 28 January 2010. My hon. Friend Mr. Ivan Lewis has done likewise with his counterparts. Strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and re-energising the nuclear non-proliferation treaty is a top foreign policy priority for the Government and the US Government.

### War Crimes: Arrest Warrants

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list each representation he has received from the US State Department *(a)* orally and *(b)* in writing on UK procedures for the issue of arrest warrants in respect of foreign nationals alleged to have committed war crimes in the last 12 months. [315804]

**Chris Bryant:** I have not had any direct representations from the US State Department on UK procedures for the issue of arrest warrants in respect of foreign nationals alleged to have committed war crimes in the last 12 months. My officials have been asked by colleagues in the State Department for factual accounts of incidents in which such arrest warrants have been sought. There have been no written representations from the US State Department on this subject during this time.

## HEALTH

### Cancer: Drugs

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons with cancer in Northampton South constituency did not receive drugs designed to prolong their life following a report for such drugs in the latest period for which figures are available. [315007]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information is not collected centrally. However this information might be available direct from Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust.

### Drugs: Children In Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether medical practitioners are required to inform local authorities when they administer drugs to children in care. [316072]

**Ann Keen:** There is no requirement on medical practitioners to inform local authorities when administering drugs to child in care. However, treatment of a child, including the prescription or administrating of drugs by medical practitioners, requires consent. In the case of children who lack the capacity to consent for themselves, a doctor would need to ask for consent from those with parental responsibility, which, for those on a care order, would be a local authority.

### Drugs: Testing

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has evaluated on the comparative *(a)* safety and *(b)* effectiveness of (i) human biology-based testing and (ii) animal testing of new drugs and treatments. [316006]

**Ann Keen:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the competent authority responsible for the issuing on Marketing Authorisations (licences) and assessing Clinical Trial Applications for medicinal products and devices.

The MHRA has not directly evaluated any specific studies on the comparative safety and effectiveness of human biology testing and animal testing of new drugs and treatment. The MHRA has, however, been indirectly involved in a number of initiatives in this field that are actively evaluating the replacement of whole animal studies with suitable alternatives, including the use of human tissue samples. Today's approaches to drug development, involving an integrated programme of non-clinical testing and clinical trials, have been built up on a rational and scientific basis for more than 30 years. At present there are no validated and established laboratory methods available to totally replace animal testing of medicinal products.

### Health Protection Agency

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made on the Health Protection Agency's Project Chrysalis; and if he will make a statement. [316063]

**Gillian Merron:** The Health Protection Agency was given approval of its strategic outline case for Project Chrysalis in August 2008 and since then has been working on the next stage, the outline business case.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the Health Protection Agency site at Porton Down; and if he will make a statement. [316065]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department will consider the Health Protection Agency's business case for redevelopment of its facilities at Porton Down (Project Chrysalis) when it is submitted.

### Health Protection Agency: Finance

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Health Protection Agency's Project Chrysalis had cost on the latest date for which figures are available. [316062]

**Gillian Merron:** The Health Protection Agency's project Chrysalis has spent a total of £9.4 million from its inception to 31 December 2009.

### Health Protection Agency: Location

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the proposed relocation of the Health Protection Agency Centre for Emergency Preparedness from Porton Down to Harlow, Essex; and if he will make a statement. [316064]

**Gillian Merron:** Written representations have been received from the hon. Member for Salisbury to the Minister for Public Health in July 2009 and from the Leader of Wiltshire council to departmental officials in January 2010.

### Health Protection Agency: Manpower

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees work at the Health Protection Agency's Porton Down site. [316061]

**Gillian Merron:** The Health Protection Agency's Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, at Porton Down, directly employs 598 staff. After allowing for part-time working, this equates to 578 whole time equivalents.

### Health Services: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £340 million included in primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations for the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 for disabled children's services under the Child Health Strategy has been allocated to each PCT. [316101]

**Ann Keen:** Individual primary care trusts (PCTs) allocations are not broken down or ring-fenced into funding for individual policies such as the Child Health Strategy. It is for PCTs to decide how best to deliver the national and local requirements of the NHS Operating Framework, including how much resource to invest on individual priorities.

### Hospital Beds

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds *(a)* there were and *(b)* were occupied in each type of hospital ward in 2008-09. [315539]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The number of occupied and available bed days and day only beds is collected annually, from national health service providers by ward classification. The following tables show the number of available beds by ward classification and the occupancy rate for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009:

*Average daily number of available and occupied beds in wards open overnight by ward classification, England, 2008-09*

| *Ward classification* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
|---|---|---|
| All ward types | 159,306 | 136,203 |
| Intensive care: neonates | 1,805 | 1,321 |
| Intensive care: paediatric | 317 | 231 |
| Intensive care: wholly or mainly adult | 3,727 | 3,046 |
| Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult | 458 | 365 |
| Younger physically disabled | 487 | 378 |
| Other general and acute: neonates and children | 8,123 | 5,332 |
| Other general and acute: elderly: normal care | 19,382 | 17,998 |
| Other general and acute: elderly: limited care | 1,413 | 1,237 |
| Other general and acute: other | 85,976 | 75,691 |
| Maternity | 8,386 | 5,532 |
| Mental illness: children: short stay | 528 | 389 |
| Mental illness: children: long stay | 29 | 23 |
| Mental illness: elderly: short stay | 6,344 | 5,147 |
| Mental illness: elderly: long stay | 2,047 | 1,646 |
| Mental illness: other ages: secure unit | 3,292 | 3,003 |
| Mental illness: other ages: short stay | 11,242 | 10,040 |
| Mental illness: other ages: long stay | 2,948 | 2,532 |

*Average daily number of available and occupied beds in wards open overnight by ward classification, England, 2008-09*

| *Ward classification* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
|---|---|---|
| Learning disabilities: children: short stay | 186 | 115 |
| Learning disabilities: children: long stay | 19 | 14 |
| Learning disabilities: other ages: secure unit | 539 | 504 |
| Learning disabilities: other ages: short stay | 938 | 709 |
| Learning disabilities: other ages: long stay | 1,200 | 1,051 |

*Average daily number of available beds in wards open day only, England, 2008-09*

| | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 10,959 | 9,717 |
| Neonates and children | 798 | 573 |
| Other ages | 10,161 | 9,143 |

*Average daily number of available and occupied residential beds, England, 2008-09*

| | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 2,941 | 2,568 |
| Mental illness | 1,186 | 1,017 |
| Learning disabilities | 1,646 | 1,477 |
| Other | 109 | 74 |

*Source:*
Department of Health form KH03

## NHS Trusts: Registration

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts did not submit an application for registration with the Care Quality Commission by 29 January 2010. [315947]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission. Of the 382 trusts due to submit an application for registration with the Care Quality Commission, 376 did so by 29 January. Of the six applications which were not submitted, two were late. The remaining four did not submit applications by 29 January with the prior agreement of the Commission, because they are in the process of transferring registered services.

## NHS: Finance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* management, *(b)* administration and *(c)* estates staff by each (i) strategic health authority, (ii) primary care trust, (iii) NHS trust and (iv) non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [315586]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information in respect of strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts has been placed in the Library. The Department holds information at organisation level for seven years, therefore 2002-03 is the earliest period for which figures are available.

The information requested for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

## NHS: Standards

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department took to inform those not party to the negotiations that discussions on the Quality and Outcomes Framework had been postponed. [315251]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department issued a press notice on 15 September 2009 announcing that as part of the agreement with the British Medical Association on a vaccination programme for the at-risk groups against swine flu, that there will be no changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework in 2010-11. A copy has been placed in the Library.

In addition, NHS Employers who negotiate changes to the General Medical Services contract on behalf of the Department published details on the conclusion of the negotiations on its website on 14 January 2010, with a parallel announcement to local primary care trusts issued by NHS Primary Care Commissioning in their newsletter on 13 January 2010.

Details can be found on NHS Employers website at:

http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/General
MedicalServicesContract/LatestNews-GMS/Pages/
Agreement reachedonGeneralMedicalServices%E2%80%99
contract negotiations.aspx

## Nurses: Schools

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified school nurses are employed in schools in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley. [314291]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not held in the format requested. Information is available for the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work, directly employed by national health service organisations. The two NHS organisations which employ school nurses in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency or the London borough of Bexley are Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust and Bexley Care Trust. The NHS Information Centre reports that there was one qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in the Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September 2008. At a local level, the staff who carry out school nursing roles carry out a range and variety of other duties in addition to their school nursing role and therefore may have different job titles. Bexley Care Trust did not report any school nursing staff on their 2008 census return. However, recent correspondence with the Trust has revealed that this was due to a local coding issue. We advise contacting Bexley Care Trust directly to obtain their figures.

# DEFENCE

## Air Force: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval was for each *(a)* aircraft and *(b)* helicopter crew type in the Royal Air Force in the latest period for which figures are available. [314479]

**Bill Rammell:** The average unit tour interval for each RAF aircraft and helicopter crew type, including those in Joint Helicopter Command, as at 1 February 2010 is provided in the table. The roles and deployment patterns vary between each type of aircraft and this is reflected in the tour intervals experienced by their aircrew. Aircrew when not deployed on operations continue to meet defence commitments and conduct training.

| *Aircraft type* | *Average tour interval* | *Tours* |
|---|---|---|
| Hercules C130K | 42 days | Afghanistan |
| Hercules C130J | 92 days | Afghanistan and Iraq |
| Hercules C130K | 90 days | Falkland Islands |
| Sentinel | 63 days | Afghanistan |
| Tristar | 70 days | Afghanistan |
| VC10 | 20 months | Falkland Islands |
| Tornado GR4 | 18 months | Afghanistan |
| Typhoon | 45 Weeks | Falkland Islands |
| BAE125 | 3 months | Afghanistan |
| BAE146 | 3 months | Afghanistan |
| Chinook | 42 weeks | Afghanistan |
| Merlin | 44 weeks | Afghanistan |
| Sea King | 17 months | Falkland Islands |

## Armed Forces: Health Services

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he decided to hold a review of out-of-hours primary care for service personnel; what the terms of reference are of that review; and when it will be concluded. [316071]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The review was initiated by the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff for Health in January 2010. It will look at the current provision of out-of-hours primary care cover for service personnel, and consider other options for providing a service that is both efficient and cost-effective, while fully meeting the needs of patients. An interim report is due in March 2010, from which further plans will be made.

## Armed forces: Housing

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 792-4W, on armed forces: housing, to whom the 370 houses in Scotland sold by his Department to persons other than registered social landlords or local authorities were sold. [314919]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Of the 370 houses sold by the MOD in financial year 2008-09, other than to registered social landlords or local authorities, 321 houses in the Moray council area were sold through open competition in two separate transactions to Julian Hodge Bank Ltd., following informal discussions with the local authority and registered social landlords. The remaining 49 houses were sold individually on the open market, further details of which can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 517-18W, on armed forces: housing, for what reason Helensburgh was chosen for the small-scale representative assessment; whether his Department plans to undertake further assessments; and whether the Helensburgh assessment is assumed to be representative of the housing stock held by his Department in Scotland. [314920]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** As stated in my earlier response of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 517-18W, the small scale representative survey at Helensburgh was carried out in order to assess proposed future investment priorities at that location. We have no plans to carry out any assessments for Energy Performance certificates on any further properties. No assumptions have been made as to the wider implications of the Helensburgh assessment.

As the hon. Member will already be aware, MOD uses the Code for Sustainable Homes for new build and the EcoHomes06 Sustainability Assessment model for major improvement works.

## Iraq and Afghanistan: Injuries

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel injured in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have (i) lost both legs and both arms, (ii) lost both legs at or above the knee, (iii) lost both legs below the knee, (iv) lost one leg at or above the knee, (v) lost one leg below the knee, (vi) lost both arms at or above the elbow, (vii) lost both arms below the elbow, (viii) lost one arm at or above the elbow, (ix) lost one arm below the elbow, (x) received deep second degree or third degree burns to more than 70 per cent. of the body, (xi) been blinded in both eyes and (xii) been made deaf in each month since both conflicts began; and if he will make a statement. [315798]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence publishes the numbers of personnel categorised as very seriously injured and seriously injured as a result of Operations Telic and Herrick on its website at:

www.mod.uk

The figures are updated fortnightly. In addition, we are committed to publishing on a quarterly basis the numbers of service personnel who have suffered limb amputations as a result of injuries sustained while on operational deployment, and DAS A will be publishing figures up to the end of 2009 shortly. However, in order both to protect the identities of small numbers of patients and to maintain operational security for the effectiveness of our protective countermeasures, we do not routinely publish VSI and SI sub-classified by other types of physical injury.

We will of course continue to welcome and encourage the publication by members of the Defence Medical Services of clinical papers that advance medical knowledge. These will normally appear in the appropriate peer-reviewed publications, and although they may contain statistics and analysis of specific injuries, care will be taken to ensure that they do not compromise operational security or patient confidentiality.

## Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 205W, on military aircraft: helicopters, when he expects main gate approval to be obtained for specific upgrades to extend the service life of the *(a)* Merlin Mk3, *(b)* Merlin Mk3a, *(c)* Sea King Mk4, *(d)* Sea King Mk7, *(e)* Apache, *(f)* Chinook Mk2 and *(g)* Chinook Mk2a. [316069]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** We expect to proceed to main gate approval for Sea King Mk4 this year. All other main gate approvals, with the exception of the procurement of an additional 22 new Chinook and a relatively modest investment in Sea King Mk7, will not take place until the conclusion of the Defence Review.

### RAF Northolt

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian aircraft (i) arrived at and (ii) departed from RAF Northolt in each year since 2007. [315378]

**Bill Rammell:** This information is not held in the format requested; however, the following table details the number of aircraft movements, which could be an arrival or departure, for each of the last three years:

| | *Civilian* | *Military* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 7,377 | 4,712 |
| 2008 | 7,139 | 5,373 |
| 2009 | 5,905 | 6,980 |

The number of civilian movements quoted in the above table includes non-commercial civilian aircraft movements, for example those transporting visiting Royalty and Heads of State. Civil commercial movements at RAF Northolt are limited to 7,000 per calendar year.

### Rescue Services: Helicopters

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contractual provisions his Department has negotiated to ensure that providers of equity capital to the successful bidder for the search and rescue helicopter service private finance initiative contract are required to hold their investment for a defined period of time; and if he will make a statement. [315713]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Under the draft contract the equity providers to the successful service provider for the SAR-H PFI will not be allowed to change their holding in the service provider for a number of years after the service has commenced. After this time, the equity providers may transfer their holding provided they give notice to the Government and the transferee is a suitable third party.

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assurances his Department has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received that the successful bidder for the search and rescue helicopter service private finance initiative contract will take full responsibility for helicopter search and rescue services and ensure continuity of management and ownership over the period of the proposed contract. [315714]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Assurances have been sought and received from bidders that if successful they will take full responsibility for helicopter search and rescue services and ensure continuity of efficient management for the duration of the contract.

The owners of the service provider will not be allowed to change their holding in the service provider for a number of years after the service has commenced. After this time, the Government restrict the circumstances in which ownership and the principal sub-contracting chain may change.

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 206W, on rescue services: helicopters, when he expects the competition for new search and rescue helicopters to be completed; and what progress has been made in the competition. [316070]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) competition is ongoing. We anticipate making an announcement of the preferred bidder very shortly and, thereafter, working with the preferred bidder to bring the project to contract later in the year.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Cold Weather Payments

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK received cold weather payments in December 2009. [315029]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* Cold weather payment information is only available by weather station, not by constituency or county. The number of cold weather payments authorised in December 2009 for Great Britain is estimated to be 4.0 million. Information on cold weather payments in Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

*Notes:*

1. The information provided is for the estimated number of payments that were authorised in December- this does not necessarily mean they were paid in December.

2. Some people had more than one payment authorised, so the number of payments authorised is greater than the number of people for whom payment was authorised.

*Source:*

DWP records of triggers to weather stations notified in December 2009 and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure her Department has incurred on each management consultant engaged in connection with the Pensions Transformation programme in the last 12 months. [315598]

**Angela Eagle:** The Department for Work and Pensions spent £5.007 million on consultants engaged in connection with the Pension Transformation programme for 2008-09. The spend for 2009-10 to date is nil.

We are unable to provide expenditure by individual supplier as this information is commercial in confidence.

### Housing and Council Tax Benefit

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people received housing benefit in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area; [313976]

(2) how many households received council tax benefit in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area. [313977]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answers 28 January 2010]*: The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when she plans to reply to the letter of 14 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J Duncan; [315018]

(2) when she plans to reply to the letter of 21 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. P. Harris; [315020]

(3) when she plans to reply to the letter of 22 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M. Naseem. [315021]

**Helen Goodman:** Replies were sent to my right hon. Friend on 2 February 2010.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer the letter of 11 November 2009, ref. SJW/SJW, from the hon. Member for Northavon on the state pension of a constituent. [315953]

**Angela Eagle:** I replied to the hon. Member on 4 February 2010 and I apologise again for the delay in doing so.

### Nuclear Submarines: Safety

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 46W, on nuclear submarines, what methodology the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate used to determine the radius of the emergency pre-planning zone around a berthed nuclear-powered submarine. [314712]

**Mr. Kidney:** I have been asked to reply.

As required under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) identified the potential radiation hazards from berthed nuclear-powered submarines and furnished this information to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Having assessed the hazards so identified, HSE formed the judgment that a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) set at a radius of 1.5 km from the submarines would provide a valid area in which the arrangements of local authorities should be applied to protect the public and society in the event of a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency involving one of the submarines. The decision to reduce the DEPZ from 2 km to 1.5 km took account of an improved analysis of the potential radiation hazards by MOD.

### Pension Credit

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households were paid *(a)* pension guarantee credit, *(b)* pension savings credit and *(c)* pension guarantee and pension savings credit in 2009. [314667]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is in the following table.

*Households in receipt and individual beneficiaries of pension credit as at May 2009*

| | *Household recipients* | *Individual beneficiaries* |
|---|---|---|
| Guarantee credit only | 925,710 | 1,123,530 |
| Savings credit only | 599,590 | 791,520 |
| Guarantee and savings credit | 1,205,230 | 1,425,130 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of themselves and a partner.
3. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal! Study 100 per cent. data

### Pension Credit: Derbyshire

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest estimate is of the number of pensioners in each constituency in Derbyshire who are eligible for but do not claim pension credit. [314665]

**Angela Eagle:** Estimates of eligibility and therefore those who are entitled to pension credit but have not claimed it are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled but not receiving pension credit are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08'.

### Pension Credit: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area are in receipt of pension credit; and what the average award was for such people in the most recent period for which figures are available. [315234]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is in the following table.

| *As at May 2009* | *Households in receipt of pension credit* | *Average award (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Cleethorpes constituency | 5,070 | 47.61 |
| North East Lincolnshire local authority area | 9,300 | 48.97 |
| North Lincolnshire local authority area | 8,380 | 46.18 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of themselves and a partner.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

### Poverty: Children

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in each local authority area in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [314269]

**Helen Goodman:** Estimates of poverty for children are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. These figures only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government Office Region level. Therefore, information is not available for the local authority areas.

However, a local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to try and replicate this national measure as closely as possible. It captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income. Details can be found via the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

The Public Service Agreement to halve child poverty by 2010-11 as a step towards eradicating it by 2020 uses a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent of contemporary household median income before housing costs.

The following table shows the three-year average volumes of children with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median (before housing costs) between 1997-2000 and 2005-08.

*Numbers of children living in households with less than 60 per cent of contemporary median income, by Government Office Region and Country, Before Housing Costs, 1997-98 to 1999-2000 —200506 to2007-08*

| *Government Office Region/Country* | *1997-98 to 1999-2000* | *2005-06 to 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 2.8 | 2.4 |
| North East | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| North West | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| East Midlands | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| West Midlands | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| East of England | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| London | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| South East | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| South West | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Scotland | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Wales | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Northern Ireland | n/a | 0.1 |

n/a = Indicates figures are not available. Data for Northern Ireland are only available on the Family Resources Survey from 2002-03.

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey, both of which are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
6. Information for adults includes those above state pension age.
7. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.

*Source:*
Households Below Average Income, DWP

### Winter Fuel Payments: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the number of households in Torbay constituency who will receive the *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2009-10; [314619]

(2) how many pensioners in Torbay constituency are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009. [314620]

**Angela Eagle:** For winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) 13,980 households received £250 and 5280 households received £400 in Torbay. We expect to have made a similar number of payments for winter 2009-10.

For winter 2008-09, 29,950 individuals received the Winter Fuel Payment in Torbay at a cost of £6 million.

*Notes:*

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate

### Winter Fuel Payments: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners aged over *(a)* 80 and *(b)* 60 years have received winter fuel payments in (i) Cleethorpes constituency, (ii) North East Lincolnshire local authority area and (iii) North Lincolnshire local authority area in each year since 2007-08. [315236]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on winters 2007-08 and 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available) is in the following table.

*Individual winter fuel payments*

| | *Winter 2007-08* | | *Winter 2008-09* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Aged 60-79* | *Aged 80 and over* | *Aged 60-79* | *Aged 80 and over* |
| Cleethorpes | 17,820 | 3990 | 18,290 | 4130 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 27,230 | 6390 | 27,670 | 6520 |
| North Lincolnshire | 29,170 | 6560 | 30,000 | 6740 |

*Notes:*

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate

## PRIME MINISTER

### Deputy Prime Minister

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons he has not appointed a Deputy Prime Minister. [314738]

**The Prime Minister:** The responsibilities of Government are carried out by the Cabinet and Ministers.

### Epilepsy: Drugs

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to inform the signatories to the e-petition to No. 10 Downing Street on the generic prescribing of anti-epilepsy drugs submitted on 1 October 2009, of the consultation on that matter which was recently opened by the Department of Health. [313934]

**The Prime Minister:** Yes. I refer the hon. Member to the response on the Number 10 website which can be found at

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22367

which gives details of the consultation.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will release for publication the documents to which Lord Goldsmith made specific reference during his appearance at the Chilcot Inquiry on 27 January 2010 and which he stated he would wish were made public. [314888]

**The Prime Minister:** Decisions on declassification are made in line with the protocol agreed between the Government and the inquiry. I have no role in the declassification process.

### Northern Ireland

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Prime Minister how many hours he has spent in Northern Ireland on official visits between the date of his appointment and 26 January 2010. [314560]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 76WS. A list of my UK visits for 2009-10 will be published in the usual way.

### Parliamentary Private Secretaries

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 711W, on parliamentary private secretaries, which parliamentary private secretary posts are *(a)* filled and *(b)* vacant; [315225]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 711W, on parliamentary private secretaries, on what date the list of parliamentary private secretaries was most recently provided to Dods for inclusion in Vacher's Quarterly; and if he will place in the Library a copy of this list. [315226]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 711W.

### West Wing Writers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the registration statement made to the United States Department of Justice under the US Foreign Agents Registration Act 1938, registration number 5838, what expenditure his Office has incurred on procuring services from West Wing Writers to date since he took up his Office; and on what dates and for what purposes such payments were made. [315199]

**The Prime Minister:** All expenditure is accounted for in the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour: Greater London

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 429W, on antisocial behaviour: Greater London, which areas in Greater London have been designated priority areas for combating antisocial behaviour. [315000]

**Alan Johnson:** Designated priority areas for combating antisocial behaviour in Greater London are:

Barking and Dagenham
Bexley
Brent
Camden
Ealing
Enfield
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Islington
Lambeth
Newham
Redbridge
Southwark
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest.

### Asylum

**Mr. Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will give interim permission to work to asylum applicant Mr. Joseph Bashir Yousif Bunni (HO Ref: B1135644); [315053]

(2) when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Mr. Joseph Bashir Yousif Bunni. [315055]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 January 2010.

**Mr. Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Ms Rachel Muadi Kumba (HO Ref: K1209955). [315054]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 7 January 2010.

**Mr. Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Ms Sara Kidane (HO Ref: K1203107). [315059]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 January 2010.

### Asylum: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied minors have arrived in the country seeking asylum in each year since 1999; and how many of them were granted asylum. [313613]

**Mr. Woolas:** The table shows the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) applications, initial decisions and grants of asylum, Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR), Humanitarian Protection (HP) and Discretionary Leave (DL) between 1999 and September 2009. Statistics on UASC asylum decisions and outcomes until 2002 are not available. Figures only include initial decisions on UASC asylum applications and not any later asylum decisions (e.g. after appeal).

Information on asylum applications is published annually in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children applications[1, 2, 3] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[4] on applications by year, all nationals*

| | Applications | | | Total decisions[4] | Grants of asylum | Grants of ELR[5] | Grants of HP[5] | Grants of DL[5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Port | In-country | Number | Total granted | Total ELR | Total HP | Total DL |
| 1999 | 3,350 | 1,500 | 1,850 | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [7]— | [7]— |
| 2000 | 2,735 | 1,395 | 1,340 | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [7]— | [7]— |
| 2001 | 3,470 | 1,645 | 1,820 | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [7]— | [7]— |
| 2002 | 6,200 | 1,240 | 4,955 | 6,990 | 585 | 4,830 | [7]— | [7]— |
| 2003 | 3,180 | 645 | 2,535 | 3,835 | 150 | 1,255 | 15 | 1,525 |
| 2004 | 2,990 | 540 | 2,455 | 3,440 | 85 | [7]— | 20 | 2,50[illegible] |
| 2005 | 2,965 | 445 | 2,520 | 2,835 | 150 | [7]— | 20 | 1,965 |
| 2006 | 3,450 | 395 | 3,055 | 2,880 | 195 | [7]— | 10 | 1,960 |
| 2007 | 3,645 | 480 | 3,165 | 3,385 | 445 | [7]— | 15 | 1,780 |
| 2008[8] | 4,285 | 380 | 3,905 | 3,375 | 335 | [7]— | 15 | 1,795 |
| January-September 2009[8] | 2,400 | 200 | 2,200 | 2,645 | 265 | [7]— | 15 | 1,490 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Figures exclude cases where the age of the applicant is disputed

[3] An Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) is a person under 18, or who, in the absence of documentary evidence establishing age, appears to be under that age; is applying for asylum in his or her own right and; is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so.

[4] The year of asylum application may not be the same as the year of initial asylum decision.

[5] Humanitarian Protection (HP) and Discretionary Leave (DL) replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.

[6] Not available.

[7] Not applicable.

[8] Provisional figures.

### Borders: Personal Records

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department plans to introduce passenger name record checks on all passenger movements *(a)* into, *(b)* through and *(c)* out of the UK. [312898]

**Mr. Woolas:** Passenger name record data (PNR) will be collected on a phased, intelligence-based approach over five years. It is expected that a maximum of 100 million passenger movements will have been collected by the end of December 2013. This equates to approximately 40 per cent. of all passenger and crew movements into, through and out of the UK. The selection of routes required to provide PNR will be based according to risk.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the e-borders programme to include an automated authority to carry capability. [312899]

**Mr. Woolas:** An automated authority to carry (ATC) capability is not included in the e-Borders contract. UK Border Agency (UKBA) has the option to include this capability at a later stage, but this will need to be funded separately.

As part of the wider rollout of e-Borders in 2011, a capability to support a manual ATC process will be delivered.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of progress in the manual trial period for authority to carry capabilities as part of the e-borders programme. [313295]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency has completed a proof of concept trial of a manual authority to carry scheme. We are currently evaluating these data in the context of the Prime Minister's recent statement on security and border protection, to examine the broader options for preventing people from travelling to the United Kingdom.

### Case Resolution Directorate

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were resolved by the Case Resolution Directorate in the most recent period for which figures are available. [313895]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency has made good progress in concluding the estimated 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records in the asylum backlog and remains on track to conclude these cases by summer 2011. The total conclusions now stand at over 220,000 cases concluded to end of September 2009. Lin Homer will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on performance up to December 2009 next month.

### Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 637W, on crime, which universities received such expenditure; and what crime awareness campaigns were undertaken in each case. [315001]

**Alan Johnson:** In 2005-06 the Home Office ran a marketing campaign called 'Let's Keep Crime Down'. An element of this campaign targeted students. Digital advertising space was purchased to targeted student bars and libraries. Advertising was centred on Leeds, London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Nottingham, Bristol, Bolton and Newcastle.

In 2009-10 Home Office gave a grant to the National Union of Students (NUS) as part of the Securing Homes: Action Against Burglary programme. £78,905.50 has been allocated for NUS to deliver communications activity. The communications work is varied and does not come under a single branded campaign. NUS has distributed a Home Office leaflet called 'The Student Survival Guide' that provides crime reduction and personal safety information and a 'Let' Keep Crime Down' branded 'doorhanger' to 119 students unions across England and Wales and has launched a crime reduction website:

www.nus.org.uk/thelock

In both 2005-06 and 2009-10, Home Office has not given individual universities money to deliver crime awareness campaigns.

### Departmental Font Licensing

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [314752]

**Mr. Woolas:** From the best available information the Home Department inclusive of its agencies have not incurred any costs on font licensing in the last three years.

### Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* potential annual rental and *(b)* total book value of the residential property owned by his Department. [313741]

**Mr. Woolas:** My Department currently owns one residential property which is in the process of being sold. Accordingly no estimates have been made of potential rental amounts and the property has an indicated guide sale price of £4 million.

### Departmental Pay

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307031]

**Mr. Woolas:** An element of the overall pay award for the Home Office is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set of meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill and pension costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the Senior Civil Service is based on the recommendations of the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Non-consolidated end-of-year performance payments made in the 2009-10 financial year (in relation to the 2008-09 performance year) amounted to £5.69 million. (0.69 per cent. of the estimated total salary provision for the 2009-10 year). Up to 0.3 per cent. of the pay bill for the current year is allocated for the purpose of non-consolidated special payments to reward exceptional in-year performance.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 261W, on departmental public consultation, how much was spent by his Department under each budgetary headline on the burglary summit on 4 February 2009. [314026]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office burglary summit was held on 4 February 2009 at the Home Office headquarters in 2 Marsham Street London. The summit was attended by 40 voluntary, private and public sector representatives. The only costs incurred were for hospitality (refreshments). The total amount spent on hospitality was £203.60

The summit resulted in the launch of the Securing Homes programme two months later under which the Government have invested £20 million in further preventing and tackling burglary.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312512]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* Figures for the purchase of furniture and fittings are 2006-07 (£4.358 million), 2007-2008 (£2.267 million) and 2008-09 (£5.956 million).

*(b)* There has been no expenditure on works of art installed by the department at its HQ at 2 Marsham Street over the last three years, other than the cost of maintaining Public Art at 2 Marsham Street which is met by the PFI supplier. Information on any possible expenditure on art elsewhere is not held centrally.

*(c)* The Department including UK Border Agency spent the following on the purchase of new vehicles in the last three years: 2006-07 £771,660, 2007-08 £785,207 and 2008-09, £230,893 exclusive of post purchase operational equipment provided in the vehicles.

### Deportation: Offenders

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people serving prison sentences in England are liable for deportation on their release; and if he will make a statement. [315009]

**Mr. Woolas:** As at 18 December 2009, Her Majesty's Prison Service published the foreign national prison population as 11,546. This includes those on remand, those serving a custodial sentence (time serving) and those time-served held under the Immigration Act 1971, including those in the immigration removal centres Dover, Haslar and Lindholme, who we are seeking to deport.

There was a monthly average in 2009 of 550 time-served foreign national offenders detained in prisons who the UK Border Agency was seeking to deport.

Those serving prison sentences will at some point during their sentence be considered for deportation against the following criteria:

A court recommendation;

For non-European Economic Area nationals—A custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only);

For EEA nationals: a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

### Detention Centres: Mobile Telephones

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* SIM cards were confiscated from persons held in immigration detention centres in each of the last five years. [313450]

**Mr. Woolas:** Detainees are permitted to retain their own mobile telephone while in the UK Border Agency's detention estate with the exception of those with a camera, recording facility or provide access to the internet; such phones are placed into the detainee's property store and returned upon discharge.

Mobile phones and SIM cards may be removed from detainees for security reasons if a detainee has been removed from association in accordance with Rule 40 and Rule 42 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001. The phone is returned to the detainee when he or she is returned to the rest of the population.

We do not keep a central record of phones confiscated from detainees.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* SIM cards have been issued to immigration detainees in each of the last five years. [313500]

**Mr. Woolas:** We do not keep a central record of mobile telephones borrowed or purchased by detainees held in immigration removal centres.

### DNA: Databases

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisation is responsible for the implementation of his Department's DNA isotope testing regime. [312203]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Forensic Science Service and the university of Reading are carrying out the analysis of the DNA and isotope samples taken by the UK Border Agency.

### Entry Clearances

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions on visa applications made at each British embassy or consulate were overturned by immigration judges in each of the last three years. [312836]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have placed tables in the Library giving the requested information. Immigration statistics for October—December 2009 will be published on 25 February.

UKBA monitors closely the reasons why appeals were overturned and uses the information to improve decision making quality.

**Patrick Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas were issued more than six months following a successful appeal against a refusal to issue entry clearance in 2009. [315146]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of students studying at colleges which have received and subsequently lost accreditation as a bona fide institution offering courses for overseas students. [314606]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: 145 international students were granted entry clearance or given leave to remain in the United Kingdom under tier 4 of the points based system, to study at a private college which has since lost its accreditation.

**Mr. Galloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision his Department makes for students studying at colleges which lose accreditation as a bona fide institution offering courses for overseas students to enable them to continue their studies. [314607]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: Students studying under tier 4 of the points based system are given 60 days in which to find the same or similar course with a different sponsor and make a new application for leave to remain in the United Kingdom to the UK Border Agency.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Totnes of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W, on human trafficking, how many cases the 180 specialists with the UK Border Agency dealt with in the last 12 months; and what average amount of time was spent on each case. [313656]

**Mr. Woolas:** In the first nine months since a National Referral Mechanism for identifying and protecting trafficking victims was established in April 2009, 405 cases have been referred to specialist decision-makers in UKBA competent authorities, either directly or through the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

Each case is unique and a case owner will devote as much time as is needed to reach an informed decision, including by consulting with other relevant agencies such as the police, children's services and support providers. In some instances, competent authorities may also need to conduct or commission a further interview to gather more evidence. The timing will vary greatly depending on whether the initial 'reasonable grounds' decision is positive, how complex the case is, the ability of the potential victim to provide information and how prompt other parties are in responding to queries for more information or reports. But it would not be unusual for a competent authority to spend two to four days in total on a given case.

### Immigrants: Somalia

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somali nationals are estimated to be in the UK illegally. [314059]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not available. By its very nature, illegal immigration is exceptionally difficult to quantify and no Government have previously been able to produce a definitive figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, including Somali nationals.

We are continuing to strengthen UK Border Controls. The e-Borders system screens passenger information against watch lists to identify high risk individuals before they travel and will also enable us to count people in and out of the country. The system will screen 95 per cent. of all passenger and crew movements in and out of the UK by December 2010 and 100 per cent. by March 2014.

Local immigration teams are being established to serve every community in the UK. Each team will work closely with police, local authorities and many other local partners to target immigration crime, including working to detect and remove those who are in the UK illegally.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somali nationals have arrived in the UK in each year since 1998. [314060]

**Mr. Woolas:** The latest available statistics relate to the number of Somali nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom, 1998 to 2008, and are given in the following table. Data for 2009 are scheduled for publication in August 2010.

The statistics are based on landing card information and may include the same individuals more than once if they visited the United Kingdom on multiple occasions in the period.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by country of nationality and purpose of journey are published annually in the series "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Somali nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom, 1998 to 2008*

| | Number of journeys | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Passengers admitted* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] | *2007*[1, 2] | *2008*[1, 2] |
| Somalia | 4,900 | 3,680 | 8,160 | 9,430 | 10,200 | 7,460 | 5,330 | 5,610 | 3,540 | 3,240 | 3,000 |

[1] Due to some gaps in the data from ports, estimates have been used.

[2] May understate due to some administrative records on non-EEA nationals being unavailable for statistical analysis. The Border Control Chapter Notes in the "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008" gives further details.

[5] Revised

[6] Provisional

*Note:*

Data rounded to three significant figures.

## Immigration Controls

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have *(a)* requested and *(b)* been granted certificates of sponsorship under the Tier 2 (i) general and (ii) intracompany transfer categories in each month since October 2009. [312411]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The tables show how many sponsors have *(a)* requested and *(b)* been granted certificates of sponsorship under tier 2 general and tier 2 intra-company transfer categories of the points-based immigration system in each month since October 2009.

*Number of sponsors requested certificates of sponsorship under tier 2*

| | *Migrant classification* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *General* | *Intra-company transfer* |
| October 2009 | 1,550 | 595 |
| November 2009 | 1,485 | 585 |
| December 2009 | 1,435 | 580 |
| Total | 4,470 | 1,760 |

*Number of sponsors granted certificates of sponsorship under tier 2*

| | *Migrant classification* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *General* | *Intra-company transfer* |
| October 2009 | 1,315 | 560 |
| November 2009 | 1,280 | 545 |
| December 2009 | 1,355 | 545 |
| Total | 3,950 | 1,650 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.

2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier 2 *(a)* general and *(b)* ICT certificates of sponsorship had (i) been requested, (ii) been allocated and (iii) were pending in each month since October 2009. [312413]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The following tables shows how many certificates of sponsorship, under tier 2 general and tier 2 intra-company transfer categories of the Points-based Immigration system have been (a) requested, (b) allocated and (c) were pending in each month since October 2009.

*Certificates of sponsorship requested—Tier 2*

| *Migrant classification* | *October 2009* | *November 2009* | *December 2009* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 2,975 | 2,820 | 2,710 | 8,505 |
| Intra company transfer | 2,885 | 2,985 | 3,270 | 9,140 |

*Certificates of sponsorship allocated—Tier 2*

| *Migrant classification* | *October 2009* | *November 2009* | *December 2009* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 2,305 | 2,280 | 2,380 | 6,965 |
| Intra company transfer | 2,585 | 2,590 | 2,505 | 7,680 |

*Certificates of sponsorship pending—Tier 2*

| *Migrant classification* | *October 2009* | *November 2009* | *December 2009* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 985 | 955 | 795 | 2,735 |
| Intra company transfer | 1,070 | 930 | 845 | 2,845 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

## Immigration: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency keeps records of the number of unaccompanied minors arriving in the UK. [313611]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency does not keep records of all unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK.

Border force officers remain vigilant in identifying any arriving child who may be at risk of harm. When an unaccompanied child arrives, the border force officer must be satisfied that suitable arrangements have been made for the child's reception and welfare in the UK before allowing them entry. The UK Border Agency works closely with the police and children's services and will if appropriate alert them to any concerns.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to identify unaccompanied minors who are suspected of being trafficked. [313612]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government's response to human trafficking is set out in their comprehensive 2007 Action Plan, which was updated in October 2009 and contains a number of specific measures to identify and protect child victims, including training for front line staff.

In December 2007 the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office published practice guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children Who May Have Been Trafficked" to help practitioners safeguard and promote the welfare of children who may have been trafficked. We also established with the NSPCC, a national Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line in October 2007 to support practitioners with advice on safeguarding vulnerable children believed to have been trafficked.

As part of our improved services for trafficked children under the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, we have introduced a National Referral Mechanism, which provides enhanced procedures for local agencies to identify, refer and support all victims of trafficking early on, including children. Alongside NRM, we are piloting a child trafficking assessment tool in 13 local authority areas, to trial a process for local practitioners to assess cases of separated children who may be trafficking victims and to take initial safeguarding action and make a referral to a Competent Authority under the NRM.

From 2 November 2009, Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act (2009) placed a new duty on UKBA to safeguard children subject to immigration controls, including trafficked children and those seeking asylum. All UK Border Agency staff at operational and case working grades are required to complete training on how to identify potential victims of trafficking, which contains specific sections on the features of child trafficking.

Updated multi agency guidance was issued on 10 June 2009 and 1 July 2009 on children at risk of sexual exploitation and those who go missing from care both of which highlight how trafficked children may be identified and protected from harm. We have incorporated child trafficking into the cross Government "Staying Safe" Action Plan and established trafficking sub groups at local and regional levels.

### Immigration: ICT

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on the Integrated Case Work IT system (Integrity) to date; and what the overall budget for the project is. [313457]

**Mr. Woolas:** Spend to date for the whole programme, from inception in 2007 up to 31 December 2009, is £71.7 million.

The total estimated cost of delivering the Immigration Case Work programme is £370 million over the period 2008-09 to 2015-16.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Integrated Case Work IT system (Integrity) to be fully operational. [313458]

**Mr. Woolas:** Implementation has commenced with three on-time releases during 2009. The target date to complete all functional components of INTEGRITY is the end of 2013, with full deployment and realisation of benefits expected by 2015.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects to reply to the letter dated 15 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs Saima Noreen Rashid; [310498]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 15 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs Saima Noreen Rashid; [311509]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs Saima Noreen Rashid. [309155]

**Alan Johnson:** Due to an administrative error the UK Border Agency did not receive my right hon. Friend's letter until December 2009. I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 26 January 2010.

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter dated 7 December 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding a constituent Ref: S1410402/K1287157. [313772]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote on 27 January 2010.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 30 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Zaheer Iqbal. [315022]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 1 February 2010.

### Opinion Polls

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on opinion polling in 2009-10. [314333]

**Mr. Woolas:** During the financial year 2009-10 the Home Office expenditure on opinion polling has been £240,816.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were transferred from immigration removal centres to open prisons in each of the last three years; and what the criteria for transferral are. [313453]

**Mr. Woolas:** Detainees being held in the UK Border Agency's detention estate would only be transferred to a prison where their behaviour threatens the security or safety of an immigration removal centre. Such detainees are transferred to closed, not open prisons.

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on services of each type for rape victims in each year since 1997. [309410]

**Alan Johnson:** Although the bulk of funding for local services comes from local sources the Home Office and other Government Departments including Ministry of Justice and Government Equalities Office do provide some grant funding to help meet the costs of providing services to sexual assault victims.

Based on the best available information, the approximated total of grants awarded:

*Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) funding*

2004-05—Home Office SARC Funding £310,000

2005-06—Home Office SARC Funding £709,000

2006-07—Home Office SARC Funding £620,000

2007-08—Home Office SARC Funding £805,000

2008-09—Home Office SARC Funding £663,000

2009-10—Home Office SARC Funding £1,500,000

*Victim's Fund—grants to local sexual assault services (administered by MoJ)*

2005-06—£1,458,718

2006-07—£1,300,600

2007-08—£1,249,644.

2008-09—£1,249,644

2009-10—£1,250,000

*Special Fund for local sexual assault services (administered by GEO)*

2008-09—£1,000,000

2009-10—£1,600,000

*Home Office funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs)*

2006-07—£760,000

2007-08—£720,000

2008-09—£720,000

2009-10—£860,000

*Home Office funding for Rape Crisis national head office*

2008-09—£75,000

2009-10—£75,000

*Home Office funding for Survivors Trust head office*

2008-09—£75,000

2009-10—£75,000

On 27 January the Government announced the following funding for 2010-11:

*Home Office ISVA Funding*

2010-11—£860,000

*Funding for local sexual assault services*

2010-11—£2,250,000

The VAWG strategy also announced a Government commitment to provide £3.2 million of funding for SARCs for 2010-11—further details will be announced shortly.

### Reoffenders: Greater London

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been re-arrested whilst released on bail for committing *(a)* a sexual offence, *(b)* an offence of violence against the person and (c) homicide in Greater London in each year since 1998. [314740]

**Alan Johnson:** The arrests data reported to the Home Office do not include information on the individual circumstances of arrests, including whether or not the person arrested was on bail at the time of the arrest.

### Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313590]

**Mr. Woolas:** In common with many other employers the Home Office recognised that the severe weather conditions during the period 4-18 January caused difficulty for many staff travelling to and from work.

Where staff experienced travel delays or were unable to get to work, line managers were reminded that they could use their discretion as to whether credit time should be given or whether annual leave, special leave or flexi-time should be used. The appropriate arrangements for individual staff were dependent upon local travel conditions, the availability of public transport and the length and difficulty of the journey into work. Many staff were also able to work from home thus reducing the amount of working time lost.

This guidance reflected existing departmental arrangements on travel disruptions set out in the staff handbook.

Records of the number of staff who were not able to attend work between 4-18 January as a result of the disruption to the transport system were not collated centrally and could therefore only be obtained at disproportionate cost. For the same reason it is not possible to provide an estimate of the cost to the Department or the total number of working hours that were lost.

### Terrorism: Finance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted under counter-terrorism legislation of an offence relating to fundraising in each of the last five years. [314747]

**Alan Johnson:** Figures on the number of people convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 for fundraising offences are available in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 18/09—Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: arrests, outcomes and stops and searches 2008/2009. Page 26, Table 1.10 (a) refers. This is available on the Home Office website via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

From September 2001 to 2009, a total of 11 people were convicted under section 15 to 19 TACT 2000 offences. The following table contains the relevant figures. No figures are available prior to this date.

| | *Numbers of individuals convicted of sections 15-19 TACT 2000—fundraising offences* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2 |
| 2002-03 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 4 |
| 2006-07 | 1 |
| 2007-08 | 3 |
| 2008-09 | 1 |

### Terrorism: Internet

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of *(a)* each category of terrorism offence and *(b)* terrorism offences involving the internet in each year since 1998. [314998]

**Alan Johnson:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* Figures on the number of people convicted under each category of terrorism offence from September 2001 to 2009 are available in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 18/09—Operational of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches 2008-09. This is available on the Home Office website via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

The information includes those convicted of offences under terrorism legislation as well as under non-terrorism legislation for terrorist-related offences. Tables 1.10 (a) and 1.10 (b) illustrate the principal offences of which suspects were convicted.

(b) Information on the number of individuals convicted of terrorism offences involving the internet from 1998 is not available. Offences relating to the dissemination of terrorist material and the glorification of terrorist acts on the internet were introduced under the Terrorism Act 2006 Part one, sections 1 and 2.

Statistics preceding the Terrorism Act 2000, covering the period up to February 2001 are available in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 16/01. This is available on the Home Office website via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb1601.pdf

This includes offences under the previous terrorist legislation, The Prevention of Terrorism Acts 1984 and 1989.

### UK Border Agency: Contracts

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts with a monetary value of over £2 million the UK Border Agency and its predecessors have signed in each of the last five years. [313903]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of contracts let with a monetary value of over £2 million in each of the last five years is as follows:

*Total number of contracts over £2 million let by UKBA for the year*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 13 |
| 2008 | 15 |
| 2007 | 13 |
| 2006 | 41 |
| 2005 | 3 |

### UK Border Agency: Travel

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on first class travel in each year since 2005. [313451]

**Mr. Woolas:** The amount spent on first class rail travel during the calendar year 2009 was £1,013,841. The amount spent on first class air travel during the calendar year was £10,936. Figures over a longer period are not available as the UK Border Agency changed the contractor through whom travel is booked in December 2008. To seek data from the previous contractor would incur a disproportionate cost.

Because the UK Border Agency's work is national and indeed international in scope, it is necessary in some cases for staff to travel in order to facilitate that work. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management and ministerial codes which include limited circumstances in which first class travel will be permitted.

The UK Border Agency is focused on driving down the cost of travel expenditure. In addition the Home Office has a travel contract that enables significant savings to be achieved compared with the standard price of UK rail travel.

### Workers Registration Scheme: North East

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU workers were registered in the Worker Registration scheme in each local authority in the North East in *(a)* March 2007, *(b)* March 2008, *(c)* March 2009 and *(d)* the latest period for which figures are available. [314034]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The data requested are published on the local government website:

www.lga.gov.uk

on the current following page:

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1095225

Officers within the House Library have direct access to the electronic documents via the local government analysis and research website.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Anne Street Partners

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any action has been taken against Anne Street Partners Limited and its directors in respect of the accounts it has filed for the period to 30 September 2008. [316059]

**Ian Lucas:** No action has been taken against Anne Street Partners Limited or its directors in relation to its accounts for the period to 30 September 2008.

The accounts the company filed on 30 July 2009 are abbreviated accounts, which have been accepted by Companies House as complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985. If any person believes the accounts are deficient they may write to Mr. Mark Youde, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ; e-mail address:

myoude@companieshouse.gov.uk

with further details and he will investigate the matter.

### Astraporta

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Astraporta (UK) Limited filed its accounts for the period to 30 September 2008 within the statutory period provided for in the Companies Act 2006. [315952]

**Ian Lucas:** Astraporta (UK) Limited has not filed its accounts for 30 September 2008. The company went into liquidation in March 2009 and it was not required to file accounts from that point on. The company came out of Liquidation in November 2009 and is due to be struck off on 1 March 2010.

### Bearwood Holdings

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Bearwood Holdings Limited filed its accounts for the period to 30 September 2008 within the statutory period provided for in the Companies Act 2006. [315951]

**Ian Lucas:** Bearwood Holdings Limited has not filed its accounts for 30 November 2008. The company went into liquidation in March 2009 and it was not required to file accounts from that point on. The company came out of liquidation in November 2009 and is due to be struck off on 1 March 2010.

### Business: Government Assistance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in each constituency in the south-west have applied for financial assistance under the *(a)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme and *(b)* Capital Enterprise Scheme since its inception; and how many such applications were granted. [314622]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 27 January, 744 businesses in the south-west region have drawn down loans totalling £66.38 million. The figures for each individual constituency in the South West region will be deposited in the Library of the House. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

With respect to the Capital for Enterprise Fund equity scheme, CfEF received 77 enquiries from businesses in the south-west seeking investment to the value of £84.3 million. Thus far, no businesses have received investment, two businesses have agreed terms on investments with a value £4 million, one business has been offered investment totalling £2 million and one proposition is under active consideration with a value of £1.3 million. The remaining inquiries are either being considered subject to further information to be supplied by the applicant or have been rejected or withdrawn. I am not providing a breakdown by parliamentary constituency or local authority as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

*Offered: South West, offered 27 January 2010*

| *Constituency name* | *Count of loan amount* | *Sum of loan amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Bath | 24 | 1.20 |
| Bournemouth East | 12 | 1.07 |
| Bournemouth West | 20 | 2.50 |
| Bridgwater | 11 | 0.85 |
| Bristol East | 21 | 2.76 |
| Bristol North West | 10 | 0.71 |
| Bristol South | 6 | 0.45 |
| Bristol West | 30 | 5.02 |
| Cheltenham | 21 | 1.99 |
| Christchurch | 15 | 1.55 |
| Cotswold | 16 | 0.82 |
| Devizes | 20 | 1.22 |
| East Devon | 6 | 0.37 |
| Exeter | 24 | 2.46 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 11 | 0.85 |
| Forest of Dean | 9 | 0.87 |
| Gloucester | 13 | 0.75 |
| Kingswood | 19 | 1.88 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 10 | 0.58 |
| North Cornwall | 31 | 1.93 |
| North Devon | 17 | 1.61 |
| North Dorset | 11 | 1.02 |
| North Swindon | 11 | 2.02 |
| North Wiltshire | 13 | 1.48 |
| Northavon | 19 | 1.48 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 13 | 1.65 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 29 | 1.77 |
| Poole | 15 | 1.57 |
| Salisbury | 12 | 1.01 |
| Somerton and Frome | 19 | 0.90 |
| South Dorset | 12 | 0.64 |
| South East Cornwall | 15 | 2.43 |
| South Swindon | 19 | 3.54 |
| South West Devon | 25 | 3.48 |
| St. Ives | 12 | 0.37 |
| Stroud | 21 | 1.24 |
| Taunton | 16 | 1.27 |
| Teignbridge | 6 | 0.21 |
| Tewkesbury | 26 | 2.69 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 25 | 2.58 |
| Torbay | 13 | 0.80 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 25 | 1.98 |
| Totnes | 19 | 2.05 |
| Truro and St. Austell | 24 | 1.93 |
| Wansdyke | 24 | 1.17 |
| Wells | 26 | 3.74 |
| West Dorset | 22 | 1.69 |
| Westbury | 27 | 1.54 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 12 | 1.00 |
| Woodspring | 9 | 0.70 |
| Yeovil | 8 | 0.44 |
| Grand total | 874 | 79.81 |

*Drawn: South West, guaranteed 27 January 2010*

| *Constituency name* | *Count of loan amount* | *Sum of loan amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Bath | 20 | 0.87 |
| Bournemouth East | 11 | 0.95 |
| Bournemouth West | 14 | 2.05 |
| Bridgwater | 8 | 0.71 |
| Bristol East | 18 | 2.24 |

*Drawn. South West, guaranteed 27 January 2010*

| *Constituency name* | *Count of loan amount* | *Sum of loan amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Bristol North West | 9 | 0.64 |
| Bristol South | 6 | 0.45 |
| Bristol West | 26 | 3.42 |
| Cheltenham | 21 | 1.99 |
| Christchurch | 13 | 1.43 |
| Cotswold | 13 | 0.66 |
| Devizes | 18 | 1.05 |
| East Devon | 6 | 0.37 |
| Exeter | 20 | 2.32 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | 9 | 0.78 |
| Forest of Dean | 7 | 0.48 |
| Gloucester | 12 | 0.74 |
| Kingswood | 18 | 1.85 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | 9 | 0.55 |
| North Cornwall | 28 | 1.71 |
| North Devon | 16 | 1.37 |
| North Dorset | 9 | 0.66 |
| North Swindon | 6 | 1.76 |
| North Wiltshire | 12 | 1.47 |
| Northavon | 16 | 1.30 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | 11 | 1.60 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | 26 | 1.55 |
| Poole | 12 | 1.21 |
| Salisbury | 12 | 1.01 |
| Somerton and Frome | 16 | 0.77 |
| South Dorset | 9 | 0.48 |
| South East Cornwall | 14 | 2.14 |
| South Swindon | 12 | 2.09 |
| South West Devon | 23 | 3.24 |
| St. Ives | 12 | 0.37 |
| Stroud | 19 | 1.16 |
| Taunton | 15 | 1.21 |
| Teignbridge | 5 | 0.16 |
| Tewkesbury | 20 | 1.37 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | 25 | 2.58 |
| Torbay | 10 | 0.60 |
| Torridge and West Devon | 18 | 1.60 |
| Totnes | 16 | 1.96 |
| Truro and St. Austell | 21 | 1.37 |
| Wansdyke | 18 | 0.81 |
| Wells | 22 | 3.23 |
| West Dorset | 20 | 1.61 |
| Westbury | 21 | 1.00 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 8 | 0.70 |
| Woodspring | 8 | 0.37 |
| Yeovil | 6 | 0.37 |
| Grand total | 744 | 66.38 |

## Business: Wales

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote small business start-up schemes among young people in Wales. [308156]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The promotion of small business start-up schemes is a devolved matter and as such is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

## Business: Young People

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to young people to obtain support from small business start-up schemes in Stroud constituency. [312756]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Young people in Stroud are able to benefit from a range of core services (see following list) provided by Business Link in the south-west. Support provided will depend on the needs of the individual and will follow the core Business Link IDB (Information, Diagnosis and Brokerage) Model.

Examples of the type of support available are:

The "gateway"—a helpline staffed by trained and accredited staff is the first point of contact for all business support inquiries.

Regional website—providing a wide range of support on all business topics.

E-alerts and E-newsletters—the monthly "Business-I" provides subscribers with information on relevant issues and updates, e.g. changes to legislation.

One to one advice—provided by a trained and accredited expert adviser who will review the a range of business topics resulting in an agreed business action plan.

Events—in addition to one to one advice, Business Links run advice workshops and seminars on specific or common areas of support, for example Start up Awareness courses or Business Finance and Financial awareness courses.

## Counterfeit Manufacturing: International Co-operation

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, what further steps he plans to take to increase transparency in the negotiating process of the agreement. [314036]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have instructed my officials to take every opportunity to press for more transparency in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations. They have consistently argued for more transparency in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations. The issue was raised again during the EU co-ordination meetings and in several bilateral discussions at the talks in Mexico during 26-291 January. As a result of our calls, and those of like-minded countries, the negotiating parties have agreed to update the summary of the key elements being discussed. A joint statement issued after the Mexico round, which mentions transparency, can be found on the Intellectual Property Office website.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students received non-repayable maintenance grants from *(a)* each education authority in the county of Tyne and Wear and *(b)* English local education authorities in each of the last five years; and what the average grant received by such students was in each case in each of the last five years. [314006]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information requested is in the table.

*Grants for maintenance—Tyne and Wear and England*[1]

| *Academic year* | *Grant* | | *Gateshead* | *Newcastle upon Tyne* | *North Tyneside* | *South Tyneside* | *Sunderland* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | HE Grant | Students | — | — | — | n/a | n/a | 101,800 |
| | | Average (£) | — | — | — | | | 860 |
| 2005/06 | HE Grant | Students | 710 | 1,050 | 640 | 580 | 1,100 | 195,900 |
| | | Average (£) | 850 | 900 | 830 | 870 | 840 | 870 |
| 2006/07 | Maintenance Grant[2] | Students | 640 | 940 | 610 | 420 | 1,010 | 166,200 |
| | | Average (£) | 1,920 | 2,130 | 1,850 | 2,040 | 2,000 | 2,010 |
| | HE Grant | Students | 540 | 820 | 500 | 450 | 680 | 154,700 |
| | | Average (£) | 890 | 910 | 840 | 890 | 970 | 890 |
| 2007/08 | Maintenance Grant[2] | Students | 1,120 | 1,690 | 1,090 | 760 | 1,740 | 301,400 |
| | | Average (£) | 2,050 | 2,170 | 1,920 | 2,200 | 2,140 | 2,090 |
| | HE Grant | Students | 300 | 490 | 270 | 260 | 510 | 93,800 |
| | | Average (£) | 890 | 890 | 860 | 890 | 890 | 890 |
| 2008/09 | Maintenance Grant [2] | Students | 1,640 | 2,520 | 1,700 | 1,110 | 2,740 | 466,100 |
| | | Average (£) | 2,100 | 2,230 | 2,000 | 2,190 | 2,180 | 2,140 |
| | HE Grant | Students | 100 | 140 | 80 | 80 | 160 | 29,600 |
| | | Average (£) | 890 | 890 | 870 | 970 | 860 | 890 |

n/a = not available

[1] Applicants awarded a full or partial grant. England student numbers rounded to nearest 100, other figures rounded to nearest 10. Consistent 2004/05 figures not available at local authority level.

[2] Maintenance Grant figures include Special Support Grant.

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

## Financial Services: Portsmouth

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effect on the financial services industry in Portsmouth of the recession; and if he will make a statement. [313073]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** At present data are only available for the period to the end of the 2008 calendar year. In 2008 there were some 2,400 people employed in this sector, which represented a 23 per cent. reduction on the 2007 figure.

However, a comparison over this relatively short time period is unlikely to present a comprehensive picture. A clearer indication of the effect of the recession on the financial services sector in Portsmouth will emerge over time, as more information becomes available.

## Higher Education: Free School Meals

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals progressed to (i) a university and (ii) a Russell Group university in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent year for which figures are available. [311211]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 15 January 2010]:* The figures in the table show pupils who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of academic years 2001-02 and 2002-03 who progressed to HE by the age of 19 (in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively). 2005-06 is the earliest year for which these figures are available.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Figures for 2007-08 will be available later this year.

*Estimates of the number and proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2001-02 and 2002-03 academic years, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2005-06 and 2006-07*

| | *Young persons in UK HE*[1] | | | | *of which: Russell Group HEIs* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *FSM*[2] | | *Non-FSM*[2] | | *FSM* | | *Non-FSM* | |
| *Academic Year* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| 2005-06 | 10,800 | 13 | 156,000 | 33 | 1,000 | 1 | 33,000 | 7 |

*Estimates of the number and proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2001-02 and 2002-03 academic years, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2005-06 and 2006-07*

| | Young persons in UK HE[1] | | | | of which; Russell Group HEIs | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FSM[2] | | Non-FSM[2] | | FSM | | Non-FSM | |
| Academic Year | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 2006-07 | 11,400 | 14 | 164,000 | 33 | 1,000 | 1 | 32,600 | 7 |

[1] Includes HE level courses at English Further Education Colleges.

[2] FSM and non-FSM indicate receipt and non-receipt of Free School Meals respectively.

*Notes:*

In 2002-03 there were 81,100 maintained school pupils aged 15 claiming free school meals. This represents around 14 per cent. of all pupils in English maintained schools.

*Source:*

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. All figures are estimates and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

## Higher Education: Lincolnshire

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents in each electoral ward in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area and *(c)* North Lincolnshire local authority area attended university in each year since 1997. [315247]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information is not available at electoral ward level. The numbers of enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions from Cleethorpes Constituency, North East Lincolnshire local authority and North Lincolnshire local authority are provided as an alternative in the following table.

*Enrolments[1] from Cleethorpes constituency[2], North East Lincolnshire local authority[2] and North Lincolnshire local authority[2]—UK Higher Education Institutions[3]*

| Academic year | Cleethorpes | North East Lincolnshire | North Lincolnshire |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 1,540 | 2,400 | 2,820 |
| 1998/99 | 1,655 | 2,590 | 3,010 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,670 | 2,565 | 3,140 |
| 2000/01 | 1,720 | 2,575 | 3,345 |
| 2001/02 | 1,655 | 2,515 | 3,370 |
| 2002/03 | 1,705 | 2,540 | 3,415 |
| 2003/04 | 1,795 | 2,665 | 3,355 |
| 2004/05 | 1,830 | 2,750 | 3,095 |
| 2005/06 | 1,735 | 2,645 | 2,990 |
| 2006/07 | 1,730 | 2,640 | 3,095 |
| 2007/08 | 1,695 | 2,565 | 3,040 |
| 2008/09 | 1,705 | 2,560 | 3,050 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency or local authority of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.

*Note:*

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

## Higher Education: Student Numbers

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of each constituency in England attended university in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [314921]

**Mr. Lammy:** A copy of a table showing the numbers of enrolments at UK higher education institutions from each constituency in England, in the 2008/09 academic year, will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

## Snow and Ice: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to business in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* the UK of the adverse weather conditions of December 2009 and January 2010. [313951]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are no official estimates at this early stage of local or regional cost to business as a result of the adverse weather but there are indications that some businesses lost trade due to customers being unable to travel or lost output due to staff being unable to attend work.

## Students: Finance

**Patrick Hall:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students eligible for payments from the Student Loans Company are awaiting payment; [311295]

(2) many applications for student loans there were in the 2009-10 academic year; and how many such applications have been approved with full assessment to date; [311297]

(3) how many applications to the Student Loans Company there were in the academic year 2008-09 for student loans. [311362]

**Mr. Lammy:** In the 2008-09 academic year, there were a total of 956,000 applications for student support for those studying in England.

I am advised by the Student Loans Company (SLC) that the number of applications received as at 31 January 2010 for 2009-10 academic year was 1,026,000. New applications are still being received. Not all applications result in payments as some applicants decide not to proceed for a number of reasons.

Figures on the status of applications for maintenance support and numbers of payments were given in the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 1 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 140-42w.

Further information is available on the Student Loans Company (SLC) website:

http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/facts%20and%20%20figures/index.html

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in higher education have received payments in respect of *(a)* tuition fee loans, *(b)* maintenance loans, *(c)* grants for living costs, *(d)* bursaries and scholarships and *(e)* extra help for students with children or adult dependants from his Department in (i) Torbay constituency, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each of the last three years; and what the total monetary value was of each such type of payment in each area in each such year. [314214]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information is as follows:

*Student support—Torbay local authority*

| | *Academic year* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006/07* | | *2007/08* | | *2008/09* | |
| | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* |
| Tuition Fee Loans | 0.9 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 4.3 |
| Maintenance Loans | 1.7 | 6.4 | 1.8 | 6.3 | 1.8 | 6.4 |
| HE Maintenance Grant | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 2.8 |
| HE Grant | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Extra help for students with children or adult dependents[1] | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 |

*Student support—South West*

| | *Academic year* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006/07* | | *2007/08* | | *2008/09* | |
| | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* |
| Tuition Fee Loans | 37.5 | 70.8 | 51.4 | 126.1 | 64.0 | 180.3 |
| Maintenance Loans | 72.2 | 259.5 | 73.2 | 259.0 | 74.9 | 263.5 |
| HE Maintenance Grant | 15.1 | 28.7 | 28.1 | 55.8 | 43.8 | 89.9 |
| HE Grant | 13.8 | 11.9 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| Extra help for students with children or adult dependents[1] | 2.4 | 6.5 | 2.8 | 7.5 | 3.1 | 8.5 |

*Student support—England*

| | *Academic year* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006/07* | | *2007/08* | | *2008/09* | |
| | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* | *Students (thousand)* | *Value (£ million)* |
| Tuition Fee Loans | 397.3 | 807.7 | 553.5 | 1,388.6 | 696.9 | 1,981.1 |
| Maintenance Loans | 728.1 | 2,613.4 | 746.2 | 2,630.7 | 771.5 | 2,717.0 |
| HE Maintenance Grant | 166.2 | 334.3 | 301.4 | 629.6 | 466.1 | 998.6 |
| HE Grant | 154.7 | 136.9 | 93.8 | 83.6 | 29.6 | 26.3 |
| Extra help for students with children or adult dependents[1] | 28.1 | 78.6 | 31.8 | 90.5 | 36.2 | 106.7 |

[1] Childcare Grant, Parental Learning Allowance and Adult Dependants Grant

*Source*

Student Loans Company

The information requested on bursaries and scholarships is not available centrally as they are the responsibility of higher education institutions.

## Students: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of 18 to 22 year-olds exclusively resident in Romford were studying at university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; [315909]

(2) what proportion of 18 year-olds participated in higher education in Romford in 2008-09. [315934]

**Mr. Lammy:** It is not possible to identify residents of Romford who did not attend higher education, which would be needed to provide a proportion. Therefore the number of 18 to 22-year-old enrolments at UK higher education institutions from Romford parliamentary constituency has been provided as an alternative. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

*18 to 22-year-old enrolments[1] from Romford parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions—academic years 1997/98 and 2008/09*

| *Age* | *1997/98* | *2008/09* |
|---|---|---|
| 18 | 135 | 230 |
| 19 | 170 | 275 |
| 20 | 185 | 295 |
| 21 | 115 | 175 |
| 22 | 60 | 85 |

*18 to 22-year-old enrolments[1] from Romford parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions—academic years 1997/98 and 2008/09*

| *Age* | *1997/98* | *2008/09* |
|---|---|---|
| Total 18-22 | 665 | 1,060 |

[1] Covers enrolments to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

[2] Excludes students who could not be assigned to a parliamentary constituency due to missing or invalid postcode information.

*Note:*

Figures are based on snapshot as at 1 December to maintain consistency across academic years and have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Burqas

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representation she has received on the wearing of burqas in public. [313814]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office has not had any recent representations on the wearing of burqas in public, however it was raised with my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Government Equalities Office at the Communities and Local Government Select Committee on 25 January 2010.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA68, on Government Departments: annual reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether the Government Equalities Office publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315607]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office produces an annual report which includes a paragraph on the departmental communications. This can be found on page 24 of the Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in her Department since its inception; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305853]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the following conferences have been attended by civil servants in the Government Equality Office.

*2009-10*

| *Conference description* | *Total cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Swedish EU presidency | 1,091.60 |
| International Lesbian and Gay European conference | 463.10 |

### Departmental Publications

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to Government Equalities Office staff on stress recognition and management. [313946]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Staff working in the Government Equalities Office can access advice on stress recognition and management via the GEO Staff Handbook, which is an internal document. We will therefore not be placing a copy in the Library.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Government Equalities Office's buildings attended by civil servants in the that Office there have been since its inception; and what the cost was of each. [307468]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office has held seven away days attended by civil servants outside the Government Equalities Office's buildings since its inception.

Costs for the five away days for all GEO staff were:

| *Date* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 16 November 2007 | 4,898 |
| 28 April 2008 | 3,413 |
| 6 November 2008 | 8,242 |
| 15 May 2009 | 6,744 |
| 16 October 2009 | 6,740 |

Costs for the two away days for the GEO Board were:

| *Date* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 27 November 2008 | 1,413 |
| 26 November 2009 | 1,267 |

The GEO does not hold information on the total number of conferences attended by its staff nor the amount that these would have cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what average time the Government Equalities Office took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313649]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The information is not available in the form requested.

46 named day questions were tabled to the Government Equalities Office between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009. Of these 52 per cent. received substantive answers on the day. 248 ordinary written questions were tabled to the Government Equalities Office between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009. Of these 45 per cent. received substantive answers within five parliamentary sitting days.

## CABINET OFFICE

### 10 Downing Street: Shops

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many sales there have been of each item of stock in the Downing Street gift shop in the last 12 months. [312355]

**Angela E. Smith:** A small selection of unsubsidised gifts are available for staff to purchase on a not-for-profit basis.

### Central Office of Information: Marketing

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Central Office of Information press release of 11 December 2009, on the merchandising and promotional items framework, what the estimated monetary value is of each label within each lot. [315224]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mark Lund, dated 2 February 2010:*

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315224] regarding the Merchandising and Promotional Framework.

There is no monetary value for each label within each lot estimated on the merchandising and promotional items framework.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any written instructions have been provided to her Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since 1997. [315323]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Cabinet Office holds no record of any written instruction since 1997 to the Cabinet Office Accounting Officer under paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the policy of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office is on the maximum time that should be taken to respond to correspondence from members of the public. [315206]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1140-41W.

### Disclosure of Information: Home Office

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Cabinet Office's Director of Security and Intelligence *(a)* dated 8 October 2008 sent to SO15 Counter Terrorism Command requesting the assistance of the police into the investigation of Home Office leaks and *(b)* of 29 October 2008 sent to Deputy Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick calling for a scoping exercise to be undertaken. [312354]

**Tessa Jowell:** A copy of the letter dated 8 October was part of the evidence submitted to the Public Administration Committee on 10 December by the Cabinet Secretary and later published on their website. The text was also included in the PAC Report Leaks and Whistleblowing in Whitehall (HC 83).

I will place a redacted copy of the letter of 29 October sent to Deputy Commissioner Cressida Dick in the Libraries of the House. This letter has been seen and discussed by the Committee on Issue of Privilege (Police Searches on Parliamentary Estate), during their evidence sessions.

### Electoral Register: British Nationals Abroad

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many UK citizens resident abroad are registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency, ranked from highest to lowest in respect of the number in each constituency. [314900]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many UK citizens resident overseas are registered to vote in each Parliamentary constituency, ranked from highest to lowest in respect of the number in each constituency. (314900)

Table 1 shows the number of overseas electors registered to vote by Parliamentary constituency in the UK in 2008, in descending order. 2008 is the latest year for which data are available. A copy has been placed in the libraries of the house.

### Government Communications

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 702W, on Government communications, what substantive documents have been published, for members of the Government Communications Network in the last 12 months. [315277]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government Communications Network (GCN) is a virtual, online network and resource open to Civil Servants who have a role or interest in Government communications.

The Government Communications Network does not publish formal reports, but best practice material is available on the GCN website and updated on a regular basis.

### Government Communications: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the speech, presentation and speaking notes made by the Permanent Secretary for Government Communications, Mr. Matt Tee, at the briefing held by Hanover in November 2009. [315208]

**Tessa Jowell:** On this occasion Mr. Tee spoke without notes or presentation materials.

### Government Departments: Private Detectives

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, on private detectives, whether other Government Departments have hired or commissioned individuals from the panel of independent investigators. [312257]

**Tessa Jowell:** Yes. Government Departments have hired individuals from the panel to undertake internal investigations. Investigations are commissioned following consultation with my Department.

### Government Departments: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 351W, on central Government: public relations, in what month of 1997 the framework was established; and which public relations companies have been included in that framework in each year since it was established. [315222]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mark Lund, dated 2 February 2010:*

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI). I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315222] regarding the PR Framework.

The COI only hold the details of companies included on the current framework and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House

The current Pubic Relations Companies that are included on the COI framework are also listed on the COI website

www.coi.gov.uk

Information on companies from previous frameworks is not held centrally.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what measures are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Office for National Statistics of the level of cost inflation within the public sector. [312261]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

The measure for price inflation that the Government use when expressing spending allocations in real terms is the GDP deflator, which measures changes in the overall level of prices for the goods and services in GDP. The latest projections can be found on p.169 of the pre-Budget report 2009:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr09_index.htm

The Office for National Statistics also publishes the GDP deflator for past years, details of which can be found in "UK National Accounts: The Blue Book 2009".

### Unemployment: Inverness

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average length of time was for which claimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [315683]

**Ms Butler:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average length of time was for which claimants aged between 18 and 24 years resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in (a) each of the last 12 months and (b) each of the last five years. (315683)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and the count date in each reference month. Table 1 shows the median length of live claims for claimants aged between 18-24 years during the last 12 months up to the latest available period in December 2009, and for December of each of the last 5 years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1. Median length of claims of jobseeker's allowance of persons' aged 18 to 24 years resident in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency*

| | *Median length of claim (months)* |
|---|---|
| December 2004 | 5.7 |
| December 2005 | 6.1 |
| December 2006 | 7.4 |
| December 2007 | 6.2 |
| December 2008 | 7.2 |
| | |
| January 2009 | 7.3 |
| February 2009 | 5.7 |
| March 2009 | 7.9 |
| April 2009 | 9.1 |
| May 2009 | 9.2 |
| June 2009 | 8.9 |
| July 2009 | 8.4 |
| August 2009 | 9.4 |
| September 2009 | 10.3 |
| October 2009 | 9.6 |
| November 2009 | 8.4 |
| December 2009 | 7.8 |

[1] Length of claim data is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Families: Government Assistance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated to Family Nurse Partnerships in 2010-11. [315749]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health took over financial responsibility for the Family Nurse Partnership programme from 2008-09. Budget allocations for 2010-11 will be finalised shortly.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals took up a university place to study each subject *(a)* group and *(b)* line in the latest year for which figures are available. [315526]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The figures in the table show pupils who were in receipt of free school meals who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of the 2002/03 academic year who progressed to HE by the age of 19 (in 2006/07) by subject group. Figures are not available by subject line.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. 2005/06 is the earliest year for which these figures are available. Figures for 2007/08 will be available later in 2010.

*Estimates of the number of free school meal pupils aged 15 in 2002/03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in2006/07, by subject group*

| *Subject of study* | *FSM pupils* |
|---|---|
| Medicine and Dentistry | 140 |
| Subjects allied to Medicine | 920 |
| Biological Sciences | 910 |
| Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects | 30 |
| Combination of Science | 170 |
| Physical Sciences | 270 |
| Mathematical and Computer Sciences | 920 |
| Engineering | 365 |
| Combination with Science | 560 |
| Technologies | 60 |
| Architecture, Building and Planning | 200 |
| Social studies | 740 |
| Law | 775 |
| Business and Administrative studies | 1,580 |
| Non-Science Combination | 750 |
| Mass Communications and Documentation | 330 |
| Linguistics, Classics and related subjects | 215 |
| European Languages, Literature and related subjects | 55 |
| Eastern, Asiatic, African, American and Australasian Languages, Literature and related subjects | 20 |
| Historical and Philosophical studies | 230 |
| Creative Arts and Design | 1,035 |
| Education | 315 |
| Generic Combined | 135 |

*Notes:*

1. All figures are estimates and have been rounded to the nearest five, figures less than 5 are shown as '-', zero counts are shown as '0'.

2. The figures for FSM pupils are based on those recorded as such on Pupil Level Census 2003/04. As this is a snapshot of pupils in one year, this will exclude pupils who claimed free school meals in previous years. Also some parents may choose not to apply for FSM.

3. Children from these families who progress to HE institutions would not be included in the table.

*Source:*

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals took up a place at each university in the latest year for which figures are available. [315527]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The figures in the table show pupils who were in receipt of free school meals who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of the 2002/03 academic year who progressed to HE by the age of 19 (in 2006/07) by higher education institution.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. 2005/06 is the earliest year for which these figures are available. Figures for 2007/08 will be available later in 2010.

*Estimates of the number of free school meal pupils aged 15 in 2002/03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2006/07, by higher education institution*

| *Higher education institution* | *FSM pupils* |
|---|---|
| The Open University | 125 |
| Bishop Grosseteste University College | - |
| Lincoln | 10 |
| Buckinghamshire New University | 70 |
| Central School of Speech and Drama | - |
| University of Chester | 75 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 50 |
| York St John University | 20 |
| University College Plymouth St Mark and St John | 10 |
| Dartington College of Arts | 5 |
| Edge Hill University | 110 |
| University College Falmouth | 10 |
| Harper Adams University College | - |
| The University of Winchester | 25 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 95 |
| University of the Arts, London | 90 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 120 |
| The University of Northampton | 50 |
| Newman College of Higher Education | 35 |
| Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication | 20 |
| Roehampton University | 125 |
| Rose Bruford College | - |
| Royal Academy of Music | 0 |
| Royal College of Music | 0 |
| Royal Northern College of Music | - |
| Southampton Solent University | 75 |
| St Martin's College | 45 |
| St Mary's University College, Twickenham | 30 |
| Leeds Trinity and All Saints | 35 |
| Trinity Laban | 0 |
| The University of Worcester | 25 |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 70 |
| Bath Spa University | 25 |
| The University of Bolton | 55 |
| Bournemouth University | 60 |
| The University of Brighton | 85 |
| Birmingham City University | 250 |
| The University of Central Lancashire | 215 |

*Estimates of the number of free school meal pupils aged 15 in 2002/03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2006/07, by higher education institution*

| *Higher education institution* | *FSM pupils* |
|---|---|
| University of Gloucestershire | 35 |
| Coventry University | 170 |
| University of Derby | 105 |
| The University of East London | 235 |
| The University of Greenwich | 275 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 280 |
| The University of Huddersfield | 185 |
| The University of Lincoln | 55 |
| Kingston University | 350 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 190 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 275 |
| The Manchester Metropolitan University | 415 |
| Middlesex University | 290 |
| De Montfort University | 215 |
| The University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 110 |
| The Nottingham Trent University | 135 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 30 |
| The University of Plymouth | 105 |
| The University of Portsmouth | 85 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 195 |
| London South Bank University | 185 |
| Staffordshire University | 50 |
| The University of Sunderland | 100 |
| The University of Teesside | 130 |
| Thames Valley University | 120 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 85 |
| The University of Chichester | 25 |
| The University of Westminster | 420 |
| The University of Wolverhampton | 295 |
| The University of Wales, Newport | 10 |
| The North-East Wales Institute of Higher Education | 10 |
| University of Wales Institute, Cardiff | 5 |
| University of Glamorgan | 15 |
| Swansea Institute of Higher Education | 5 |
| Trinity College, Carmarthen | — |
| University of Abertay Dundee | 0 |
| Edinburgh College of Art | — |
| Glasgow School of Art | — |
| Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh | — |
| The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama | 0 |
| The Robert Gordon University | |
| The University of Paisley | 0 |
| Glasgow Caledonian University | — |
| Napier University | — |
| Aston University | 95 |
| The University of Bath | 15 |
| The University of Birmingham | 100 |
| The University of Bradford | 220 |
| The University of Bristol | 20 |
| Brunel University | 190 |
| The University of Cambridge | 20 |
| The City University | 160 |
| University of Durham | 30 |
| The University of East Anglia | 35 |
| The University of Essex | 70 |
| The University of Exeter | 15 |
| The University of Hull | 75 |
| The University of Keele | 50 |
| The University of Kent | 75 |
| The University of Lancaster | 40 |
| The University of Leeds | 105 |
| The University of Leicester | 55 |
| The University of Liverpool | 90 |
| Birkbeck College | 10 |
| Goldsmiths College | 100 |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine | 45 |
| Institute of Education | 0 |
| King's College London | 120 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | 30 |
| Queen Mary and Westfield College | 250 |
| Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 35 |
| The Royal Veterinary College | — |
| St George's Hospital Medical School | 25 |
| The School of Oriental and African Studies | 35 |
| The School of Pharmacy | 15 |
| University College London | 50 |
| University of London (Institutes and activities) | 0 |
| Loughborough University | 50 |
| The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 35 |
| The University of Nottingham | 55 |
| The University of Oxford | 25 |
| The University of Reading | 40 |
| The University of Salford | 155 |
| The University of Sheffield | 55 |
| The University of Southampton | 45 |
| The University of Surrey | 35 |
| The University of Sussex | 35 |
| The University of Warwick | 30 |
| The University of York | 15 |
| The University of Edinburgh | — |
| The University of Glasgow | — |
| The University of Strathclyde | — |
| The University of Aberdeen | 10 |
| Heriot-Watt University | 5 |
| The University of Dundee | 5 |
| The University of St Andrews | 5 |
| The University of Stirling | 10 |
| Scottish Agricultural College | 0 |
| The University of Wales, Lampeter | 5 |
| Aberystwyth University | 30 |
| Bangor University | 20 |
| Cardiff University | 20 |
| Swansea University | 15 |

*Estimates of the number of free school meal pupils aged 15 in 2002/03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2006/07, by higher education institution*

| *Higher education institution* | *FSM pupils* |
|---|---|
| Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama | — |
| The Queen's University of Belfast | — |
| University of Ulster | 5 |
| Writtle College | 5 |
| Norwich School of Art and Design | 5 |
| Cumbria Institute of the Arts | 10 |
| St. Mary's University College | 0 |
| Royal Agricultural College | 0 |
| UHI Millennium Institute | — |
| The Arts Institute at Bournemouth | 5 |
| Bell College | — |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | — |
| Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies | 55 |
| Courtauld Institute of Art | 0 |
| London Metropolitan University | 315 |
| The University of Buckingham | — |
| The University of Manchester | 145 |
| Heythrop College | — |
| The University College for the Creative Arts | 40 |
| Leeds College of Music | 0 |
| Guildhall School of Music and Drama | 0 |
| The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts | 5 |

*Notes:*

1. All figures are estimates and have been rounded to the nearest five, figures less than five are shown as '—', zero counts are shown as '0'.
2. The figures for FSM pupils are based on those recorded as such on Pupil Level Census 2003/04. As this is a snapshot of pupils in one year, this will exclude pupils who claimed free school meals in previous years. Also some parents may choose not to apply for FSM.
3. Children from these families who progress to HE institutions would not be included in the table.

*Source:*

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record

## Pupil Exclusions: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils from *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools were (i) temporarily and (ii) permanently excluded in (A) Stroud constituency and (B) Gloucestershire in academic year 2008-09. [312751]

**Mr. Coaker:** Exclusions data for 2008/09 are not yet available. A Statistical First Release including national and local authority level data is due to be published in July showing this information.

Information on exclusions for the 2007/08 school year are provided in the following table.

*Maintained primary schools, state-funded secondary schools and special schools[1 2 3] number of pupil enrolments[4] with fixed period and permanent exclusions 2007/08*

| | *Stroud parliamentary constituency* | | *Gloucestershire local authority* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Fixed period exclusions* | *Permanent exclusions[5]* | *Fixed period exclusions* | *Permanent exclusions[6]* |
| Primary | 30 | 0 | 200 | 20 |
| All Secondary | 420 | 20 | 2,000 | 110 |
| Special | 50 | * | 110 | * |
| Total | 500 | 20 | 2,320 | 140 |

"*" = Less than 5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the school year.

[5] Figures are reported by schools and are known to be incomplete.

[6] Estimates based on confirmed local authority figures.

*Note:*

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

# NORTHERN IRELAND

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313236]

**Paul Goggins:** The following information relates to surplus staff.

*(a)* No Northern Ireland Office (NIO) staff have been "managed out" in the last five years.

*(b)* In 2009, 16 staff were "in transition" prior to being managed out to the Youth Justice Agency. The transition window between notification and exit was eight months. Salary costs were approximately £350,000. Five per cent. of these staff were "in transition" for more than six months.

## Driving Offences: Sentencing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 511-12W, on driving offences, how many custodial sentences were handed down for causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly (a) when unfit and (b) with excess alcohol; and what the (i) average, (ii) longest and (iii) shortest custodial sentence was in each of those years. [314517]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table documents the number convicted, the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, the shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for each of the offences 'cause grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly when unfit' and 'causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol'.

Data cover the calendar years 2005 and 2006 and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

*'Cause grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly when unfit' and 'causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol'—number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given, 2005 and 2006*

| | | | Sentence length (in months)[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number convicted | Number given immediate custody | Average | Shortest | Longest |
| *2005* | | | | | |
| Cause grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly when unfit | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol | 4 | 3 | 26 | 14 | 42 |
| *2006* | | | | | |
| Cause grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly when unfit | 3 | 3 | 14 | 6 | 24 |
| Causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol | 4 | 3 | 11 | 6 | 18 |

[1] Sentence lengths have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 511-12W, on driving offences, what the *(a)* average, *(b)* longest and *(c)* shortest custodial sentence handed down for a motoring offence causing death was in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006; and how many custodial sentences were handed down in each of those years. [314518]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table documents the number convicted, the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, the shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for motoring offences causing death for each of the requested years.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

*Number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for motoring offences causing death*

| | | | Sentence length (in months) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number convicted | Number given immediate custody | Average | Shortest | Longest |
| 2005 | 9 | 8 | 32 | 9 | 72 |
| 2006 | 13 | 12 | 42 | 3 | 108 |

[1] Sentence lengths have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments were made by his Department and each of its agencies to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315615]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the expenditure to the Newspaper Licensing Agency by the Northern Ireland Office including its agencies, but excluding non-departmental public bodies and the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland. Figures cover the last seven years for which records are available.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 65,215.22 |
| 2004-05 | 62,720.95 |
| 2005-06 | 42,944.26 |
| 2006-07 | 50,318.56 |
| 2007-08 | 40,337.07 |
| 2008-09 | 44,798.56 |
| 2009-10 | 40,585.63 |

## Sexual Offences: Sentencing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 512-14, on sexual offences, in respect of each category of offence, *(a)* what the average length of custodial sentence was, *(b)* how many custodial sentences were handed down and *(c)* what the (i) longest and (ii) shortest custodial sentence for each category of offence was. [314678]

**Paul Goggins:** The following tables document the number convicted, the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, the shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for serious sexual assault offences broken down by offence.

Data cover the calendar years 2004 to 2006 and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

*Number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for serious sexual assault offences by offence*

*2004*

| | | | Sentence length (in months)[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | Number convicted | Number given immediate custody | Average | Shortest | Longest |
| Rape[2] | 15 | 15 | 119 | 48 | Life |
| Attempted rape | 3 | 3 | 104 | 48 | 144 |
| Gross indecency with child | 3 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 20 |

*Number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for serious sexual assault offences by offence*

*2004*

| *Offence* | *Number convicted* | *Number given immediate custody* | *Sentence length (in months)*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Average* | *Shortest* | *Longest* |
| Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Buggery with boy under 16 years of age | 6 | 4 | 113 | 60 | 168 |
| Buggery with a woman | 1 | 1 | 72 | 72 | 72 |
| Buggery with a girl | 1 | 1 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years | 4 | 3 | 20 | 6 | 30 |
| Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years | 2 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Incest by man on female | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Indecent assault on female[3] | 57 | 19 | 21 | 2 | 60 |
| Indecent assault on male | 17 | 9 | 15 | 3 | 36 |
| Indecent assault on female child | 3 | 2 | 18 | 12 | 24 |
| Indecent assault on male child[4] | 4 | 2 | 48 | 48 | 48 |

[1]. Sentence lengths have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] The average sentence length excludes the one offender sentenced to life imprisonment.

[3]. Sentence length information excludes one offender sentenced to a juvenile justice centre order.

[4]. Sentence length information excludes one offender sentenced to a juvenile justice centre order.

*Number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for serious sexual assault offences by offence*

*2005*

| *Offence* | *Number convicted* | *Number given immediate custody* | *Sentence length (in months)*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Average* | *Shortest* | *Longest* |
| Rape | 4 | 4 | 105 | 48 | 144 |
| Attempted rape | 4 | 4 | 81 | 60 | 120 |
| Gross indecency with child | 6 | 3 | 14 | 8 | 24 |
| Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Buggery with boy under 16 years of age | 1 | 1 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| Buggery with a woman | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Buggery with a girl | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years | 3 | 3 | 17 | 14 | 18 |
| Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years | 4 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Incest by man on female | 1 | 1 | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Indecent assault on female | 51 | 21 | 29 | 3 | 84 |
| Indecent assault on male | 11 | 4 | 38 | 9 | 96 |
| Indecent assault on female child | 18 | 13 | 27 | 6 | 66 |
| Indecent assault on male child | 5 | 3 | 45 | 8 | 78 |

[1]. Sentence lengths have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

*Number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average, shortest and longest custodial sentence length (in months) given for serious sexual assault offences by offence*

*2006*

| *Offence* | *Number convicted* | *Number given immediate custody* | *Sentence length (in months)*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Average* | *Shortest* | *Longest* |
| Rape | 11 | 11 | 125 | 48 | 180 |
| Attempted rape | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Gross indecency with child | 5 | 3 | 32 | 18 | 54 |
| Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Buggery with boy under 16 years of age | 3 | 3 | 125 | 108 | 144 |
| Buggery with a woman | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Buggery with a girl | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years | 3 | 2 | 42 | 36 | 48 |
| Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years | 5 | 4 | 13 | 8 | 24 |
| Incest by man on female | 1 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Indecent assault on female[2] | 73 | 41 | 29 | 2 | 96 |
| Indecent assault on male | 8 | 4 | 31 | 6 | 72 |
| Indecent assault on female child | 2 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Indecent assault on male child | 0 | 0 | — | — | |

[1] Sentence lengths have been rounded to the nearest whole number

[2] Sentence length information excludes one offender sentenced to a juvenile justice centre order

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage retailers to reduce their carbon emissions; what representations he has received on campaigns organised by not-for-profit organisations to encourage retailers to conserve energy; and if he will make a statement. [314486]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have in place a number of measures to encourage retailers to reduce carbon emissions. These include the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, which will enter into force this year; advice and support, including through the Carbon Trust and Business Link; and a range of financial incentives to encourage energy efficient investment, including Enhanced Capital Allowances and interest free energy efficiency loans for small and medium enterprises. DECC also works closely with The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in efforts to help retailers reduce carbon emissions from products and services.

In addition, the retail sector and the Government are working together to develop a low carbon action plan for retail. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, DEFRA and DECC are currently working in partnership with the British Retail Consortium and the Association of Convenience Stores to identify key priorities and actions to improve the environmental performance of the retail sector.

I am aware of representations on this subject from the 10:10 campaign; these are being considered as part of the work outlined above.

## Electricity Generation

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the price per megawatt hour of electricity generated over the life cycle of proposed new *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas, *(c)* oil, *(d)* hydroelectric, *(e)* nuclear and *(f)* tidal power generating facilities. [314344]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government have carried out analysis on generation costs in recent years to inform policy decisions. Some of these estimates were published as part of the Energy Review (2006)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32014.pdf

More recently the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) have published estimated levelised costs (£/MWh, in 2008 prices) associated with 1 MWh of electricity generated from some technologies, for their December 2008 report

http://www.theccc.org.uk/pdf/TSO-ClimateChange.pdf

as set out in the following table, including construction, operation and maintenance costs and where applicable the cost of carbon allowances under the European Union emissions trading scheme. Moreover, for nuclear, they also include the costs of decommissioning and waste.

| *Technology* | *Levelised cost (£/MWh) 2010* |
|---|---|
| *Coal fired plant* | |
| Coal—central fuel | 54 |
| *Gas fired plant* | |
| Combined cycle gas turbine—central fuel | 53 |
| *Nuclear plant* | |
| Nuclear | 51 |

*Source:*

The Committee on Climate Change (2008) "Building a low-carbon economy" p189

Government estimates for the cost of electricity generated from hydroelectric plant were published in the Department of Trade and Industry report "Impact of banding the Renewables Obligation—Costs of electricity production" (2007)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/Tiles/file39038.pdf

| *Technology—Hydroelectric* | *Levelised cost (£/MWh) 2010* |
|---|---|
| Small scale (<1.25 MW)—central cost | 71 |
| Mid scale (1.25-20 MW)—central cost | 63 |

*Source:*

DTI (2006) "Impact of banding the Renewables Obligation—Costs of electricity production" p32-34

The estimated costs of tidal generation were estimated as part of the response to the consultation on the Renewable Energy Strategy. These are set out as follows:

| *Technology* | *Capital cost (£/kW) 2008* | *Operating cost (£/kW/year)* | *Availability (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tidal stream | 2,900-3,800 | 75-80 | 33-40 |

*Source:*

Redpoint Trilemma (2008) "Implementation of EU 2020 Renewable Target in the UK Electricity Sector: Renewable Support Schemes."

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_res/rescon_support/rescon_support.aspx

Government do not have a recent cost estimate for the price per megawatt hour of electricity generated from oil-fired plant.

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. In reality, there are large uncertainties and ranges around these figures.

## Energy: Conservation

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds, North-West constituency have received assistance from the Community Energy Saving Programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [315577]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) went live on 1 September 2009. There is currently one CESP scheme that has commenced which is in Walsall where work began in January. This scheme will deliver energy efficiency benefits to up to 136 households; work has been completed in a few of these households to date.

Figures will be available from 1 May 2010 when Ofgem is required to provide its first report to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

## Heating

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made in taking forward the connection of the Pimlico and Whitehall district heating schemes as announced in the Budget 2009; and how much his Department is planning to spend on this project. [315187]

**Joan Ruddock:** Working closely with the London Development Agency we have made good progress identifying the route for the pipe work, and the location of the interconnector and with resolving certain technical issues involved with this complicated project. DECC has earmarked £1.75 million for the project, subject to match funding by the London Development Agency.

## Nuclear Power

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 187W, on nuclear power: regulation, what cost recovery has been applied to the Nuclear Industry Association, as originator of the nuclear justification document which was the subject of discussion at the public consultation meeting; and whether he plans to apply cost recovery to applicants for any future meetings held on nuclear justification. [316515]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Nuclear Industry Association met the cost of making its application for a Regulatory Justification decision. The public engagement event on 19 January was part of the Government's public consultation on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed decisions. It is therefore proper that the Government meet the cost of the event.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Leukaemia

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the incidence of leukaemia in children aged under five years living within a five kilometre radius of a nuclear site. [314904]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* We are currently consulting on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed decisions that two new nuclear power station designs, the AP1000 and the European pressurised reactor, are justified under the terms of the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004.

Chapter 3 of the proposed decision documents sets out what account my right hon. Friend has taken of recent studies on the impact of radiation on human health in coming to his proposed decisions.

Copies of the consultation documents have been placed in the Library of the House and are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/reg_just_cons/reg_just_cons.aspx

### Oil: Overseas Trade

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of refined oil and petroleum products (i) exported and (ii) imported in each of the last five years. [315578]

**Mr. Kidney:** The information requested is in the following tables.

*Crude oil and petroleum products*

| | | *Value (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Exported* | *Imported* |
| 2004 | 16,470 | 13,820 |
| 2005 | 19,595 | 19,415 |
| 2006 | 22,135 | 23,390 |
| 2007 | 22,725 | 22,495 |
| 2008 | 31,790 | 35,070 |

*Crude oil and petroleum products*

| | *Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Exported* | *Imported* |
| 2004 | 103,621 | 88,394 |
| 2005 | 91,498 | 88,832 |
| 2006 | 86,349 | 94,207 |
| 2007 | 88,464 | 90,112 |
| 2008 | 84,325 | 91,683 |

These data are published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (Tables 1.1 to 1.6).

### Power Stations: EU Law

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the effect on *(a)* the size of energy bills and *(b)* the number of jobs in the energy sector of implementation of the provisions of the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive. [313756]

**Mr. Kidney:** The impact of the implementation of the large combustion plants directive is taken into account within all projections of future energy prices published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The impact of the large combustion plants directive specifically on energy bills and jobs in isolation from other policies has not been assessed.

### Radioactive Materials: Waste Management

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evidence his Department is using to decide on the minimum burial depth for each grade of nuclear waste. [314721]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The depth of the facilities for the disposal of radioactive waste are considered on a facility by facility basis by the operator, who will need to satisfy the independent safety and environmental regulators that people and the environment will be protected.

The White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' states that the

> "depth at which the underground vaults and disposal tunnels will be located is likely to be somewhere between 200 and 1000 metres, but this will depend on the geology at the site in question".

This statement is drawn directly from recommendations of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management released in 2006

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account was taken of scientific predictions of future rising sea levels in the process of deciding upon nuclear waste storage sites; and if he will make a statement. [314723]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The bulk storage of nuclear fuel or nuclear matter (including waste) is a licensable activity under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. The holder of a nuclear site licence to undertake such activities is required to make and implement adequate arrangements for the production and assessment of safety cases consisting of documentation to justify safety of the installation throughout its life.

This requirement includes demonstrating the safety of any storage facilities from a range of external hazards including sea flooding whatever the cause. These assessments take account of anticipated changes in the nature of external hazards including those as a result of climate change. These assessments are maintained under periodic review to demonstrate the continuing safety of the site.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps have been taken to ensure that geological disposal of nuclear waste is safe in relation to the possibility of a seismic event in the future. [314724]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]*: The White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' (Cmd. 7386) sets out the process to select a site for geological disposal. As part of that process geological stability will be considered in the site specific assessments to be undertaken during desk based studies and site investigations before a site is finally selected.

Before a disposal facility can begin to operate, the developer will have to demonstrate to the independent safety and environment regulators that it will be safe during operation and following closure, including considerations of geological stability. No facility will be built unless it can meet the demanding safety case requirements of the independent statutory regulators.

### Renewable Energy

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase the diversity of energy sources in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [314481]

**Mr. Kidney:** Diversity of energy sources is very important for our energy security of supply objectives as it means that we are not overly reliant on any one technology, fuel or supplier.

On electricity for example, the Government are taking steps to increase the diversity of energy sources in the UK by creating a supportive policy framework for investments in new energy infrastructure. This mix comprises low carbon technologies such as renewables, nuclear, coal carbon capture and storage and gas.

### Uranium: Mining

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what submissions were received on uranium mining, milling and processing in the consultation his Department held on nuclear justification in 2009; what account was taken of those submissions in preparation of the current nuclear justification consultation; what technical advice his Department has obtained on the radiological impact of uranium mining in the nuclear fuel production and use cycle compared to other stages; and what his latest information is on the radiological detriment contributed by uranium mining in his Department's comparative sustainability analysis of nuclear new build. [315993]

**Mr. Kidney:** The consultation on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed decisions that the AP1000 and European pressurised reactor nuclear power station designs are justified under the terms of the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 states that several of those who responded to the previous consultation on the Nuclear Industry Association's application for Regulatory Justification of new nuclear power station designs raised the impact of uranium mining. My right hon. Friend took account of all responses received in coming to the proposed decisions on which we are consulting. The decision documents set out my right hon. Friend's view that he is not bound to take practices outside the UK into account in making his proposed decisions, but that in view of respondents' concerns he has sought further information on the safety regime for uranium mining, and set out the information he has taken into account, including technical advice from Integrated Decision Management.

The Appraisal of Sustainability published as part of the consultation on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement is intended to assess the environmental and sustainability impacts of the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement and therefore focuses on those impacts which arise from the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement itself. The draft Nuclear National Policy Statement provides guidance to the Infrastructure Planning Commission on the construction and operation of new nuclear power stations. It does not cover mining or milling of uranium. Copies of the Regulatory Justification consultation documents have been placed in the Library of the House and are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/regJust_cons/reg_just_cons.aspx

Copies of the consultation documents on a draft Nuclear National Policy Statement, have been placed in the Library of the House and are available at:

https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/home/

We will consider any new and relevant information that is submitted as part of these current consultations.

### Warm Front Scheme

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department paid to eaga plc for their administration of the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and how much it is estimated will be paid for 2009-10. [313742]

**Mr. Kidney:** The following table shows the administration fee paid to eaga plc for their administration of the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and how much it is estimated will be paid for 2009-10.

| | *Fee (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 28,551,000 |
| 2007-08 | 31,464,000 |
| 2008-09 | 28,923,000 |
| 2009-10 (forecast) | 28,024,000 |

*Note:*

The administration fee given for the 2006-07 scheme year differs from that previously released on 27 Feb 2009, *Official Report*, column 1139W, following the identification of a data entry error in that response.

### Wind Power: Noise

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on limits on noise from onshore wind farms. [314414]

**Mr. Kidney:** Our records show that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received a small number of representations on noise limits from onshore wind farms in the last six months. This includes correspondence and meetings with interested parties.

## TREASURY

### Civil Servants: Location

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* ministerial Departments, *(c)* non-ministerial departments and *(d)* non-departmental public bodies have been relocated out of London since the Gershon review reported. [312280]

**Mr. Byrne:** The 2009 pre-Budget report announced that by June 2009 nearly 21,000 civil service posts had been relocated out of London and the South East.

The Office of Government Commerce website provides information on departmental contributions towards this total at the address below:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/government_relocation_relocation_programme_progress__8176.asp

This information on OGC's website is summarised in the following table.

| *Department* | *Number of posts* |
|---|---|
| Education and Skills | 1,052 |
| Health | 1,070 |
| Home Office | 3,140 |
| Ministry of Justice (formerly Department for Constitutional Affairs) | 772 |
| Defence | 3,940 |
| Culture, Media and Sport | 894 |
| Work and Pensions | 4,377 |
| Chancellor's Departments | 3,723 |
| Cabinet Office[1] | 92 |
| Communities and Local Government (formerly Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) | 255 |
| Crown Prosecution Service[2] | 43 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 478 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office[3] | 30 |
| International Development | 88 |
| Northern Ireland Office | 8 |
| Trade and Industry[4] | 632 |
| Transport[5] | 38 |
| Total | 20,632 |

[1] Includes 25 Charity Commission relocations

[2] The Crown Prosecution Service had no relocation target at the start of Spending review 2004, but later agreed a target of relocating 20 posts out of London and the South East by 31 March 2008.

[3] Does not include relocations out of London to Hanslope Park.

[4] Includes three Office of Fair Trading relocations.

[5] Does not include relocations out of London to Hastings.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(d)* his Department's agencies in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315252]

**Ian Pearson:** The Treasury and its agencies do not hold a central record of bookings through Expotel with regard to the star rating of hotels and the information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Neither HM Revenue and Customs nor the Valuation Office Agency book accommodation through an Expotel contract.

### Land: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Valuation Office Agency made of the average value of a hectare of land in each of the last 20 quarters. [315656]

**Ian Pearson:** The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) publishes the Property Market Report (PMR). This report provides valuation opinions on land, dwellings and commercial property across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The PMR, available on the VOA's website at

www.voa.gov.uk/publications

is published twice yearly reporting on the property market as at 1 January and 1 July.

### Public Sector: Consultants

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which companies have been appointed to each of the lots to provide services referred to in the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions Contract Notice 2009/S 60-086533 on general management consultancy services. [315259]

**Ian Pearson:** A list of suppliers awarded to each of the 13 lots of the Management Consultancy and Accounting Services Framework is available on the Buying Solutions website

www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/frameworks/

### Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on the Employee Share Scheme project; what the running costs of the project are estimated to be in 2010-11; and how many transactions have been processed under the scheme. [315257]

**Ian Pearson:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has spent £9.6 million on the Employee Share Schemes (ESS) project. The estimated running costs for this project for 2010-11 are £796,000. HMRC has processed over 91,000 annual share scheme returns since the project went live in April 2007.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the stamp duty and stamp duty land tax *(a)* threshold and *(b)* rate was in each relevant year since 1996. [316067]

**Ian Pearson:** Stamp duty reserve tax rates are given at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/sdrt/intro/sdrtrates.htm

Rates for stamp duty are the same as for stamp duty reserve tax.

Stamp duty land tax threshold and rates are given at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/sdlt/rates-thresholds.htm#4

### Tax Allowances

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether HM Revenue and Customs will continue to provide exemption from taxation for existing free travel to work benefits; [313684]

(2) how much revenue has been raised by the change to HM Revenue and Customs' rules on travel to work benefits; [313626]

(3) which travel to work schemes will be regarded as a taxable benefit by HM Revenue and Customs in 2010-11; [313625]

(4) whether recent guidance issued by HM Revenue and Customs will *(a)* restrict and *(b)* remove the exemption from taxation in respect of free travel-to-work benefits; [315341]

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on those who participate in the Salary Sacrifice Travel scheme of his Department's recent revisions to its guidance on the scheme. [315667]

**Mr. Timms:** There have been no changes to the employment related travel expenses rules since 1998 or to benefits related to travel to work since 2002.

As a general rule, tax relief is not given for the cost of travelling between home and the workplace. Legislation (sections 243 and 244 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003) sets out the conditions under which relief for a benefit received as a consequence of an employer's support for local bus transport and for Cycle to Work schemes apply.

In December 2009, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) updated its guidance relating to these schemes to clarify the conditions that need to be met in order for relief to be available. The revised guidance is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/specialist/cycles_bus_passes.pdf

The changes to HMRC's guidance do not widen or restrict the scope of the legislation.

Information on the revenue implications and the effects on users of these schemes as a result of the change in guidance is not available, as HMRC does not hold the detailed data necessary to produce this analysis.

### Tax Avoidance

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the then Paymaster General of 3 May 2000, *Official Report*, column 217, what the evidential basis was for the £900 million figure; and how much has been raised through IR35 in each year since 2000-01. [315308]

**Ian Pearson:** Estimates of the yield from the intermediaries legislation (also known as IR35) were informed by a survey of accounts held at Inland Revenue tax offices of small companies with taxable profits that were less than £500,000, conducted in 1999-2000.

With respect to how much has been raised through IR35 in each year since 2000-01, I would refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 64W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Audit Commission

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether board members of the Audit Commission are required to disclose membership of a political party when making a declaration of political activity. [315513]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 5 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

There is no requirement for Board Members of the Audit Commission to disclose membership of a political party when making a declaration of political activity. The Commission follows the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, which does not require details of party membership.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employment disputes involving staff of the Audit Commission have been taken to an employment tribunal in the last four years; what the outcome was of each; and what the grounds of the dispute were in each case, anonymised where necessary. [315549]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 5 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Seven employment tribunal claims have been brought against the Commission by members of staff or former staff in the last four years. The grounds of dispute and outcome in each case are outlined below.

1. A former employee argued that dismissal on grounds of redundancy was unfair. The matter was settled on cost efficiency grounds.

2. A former employee disputed the amount of holiday pay owed by the Commission on termination of employment. The Tribunal dismissed the claim.

3. A former employee alleged breach of contract relating to an agreement to make payment in lieu of notice (PILON). The claim was settled for a nominal amount.

4. A former employee brought a claim against the Commission for failure to make an ill-health retirement recommendation to the Commission's Pension Scheme Trustees. The claim was withdrawn.

5. A former employee argued that dismissal on grounds of redundancy was unfair. The claim was withdrawn.

6. Nine members of staff brought a claim against the Commission for equal pay. The claim was upheld by the Employment Tribunal and is the subject to an appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

7. A former employee has brought claims against the Commission for unfair dismissal, race discrimination, disability discrimination and other related claims. The claims are yet to be heard and are fully contested by the Commission.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* declaration of interests and *(b)* record of gifts and hospitality has been made by each board member and Commissioner of the Audit Commission; and what benefits in kind are provided to the board members of the Audit Commission. [315550]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 5 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Board Member Declarations of Interest

Audit Commission Board members are required to declare any interests that are relevant and material to the Commission, and which they might reasonably be expected to know about. Commissioners must also declare any perceived or actual interest at Board meetings, where the interest relates specifically to a particular issue under consideration. Interests that should be regarded as 'relevant and material' are circumstances in which there is a real possibility of bias, including those in which a Board member or his/her close family or any nominee of his/hers is:

a paid employee, partner, Director or proprietor of a company or other body with which the Commission has, is entering into or is proposing to enter into a contract;

is a trustee or on the Committee of Management or other controlling body of a non-profit making organisation, for example a charity or a Housing Association, with which the Commission has significant dealings;

has a controlling interest or has shares or securities with a nominal value of more than £25,000 or one-hundredth of the total issued share capital in a company or organisation with which the Commission has, is entering into or proposing to enter into a contract;

has a direct interest in any land or property that is used by the Commission; and/or

any other general declarations they might wish to make.

Below is a table of all such declarations made by current Board members. This information is published on the Audit Commission website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/aboutus/howwearerun/pages/commissioners.aspx

| *Commissioner* | *Interest declared* |
|---|---|
| Michael O'Higgins (Chair) | Chair, Centrepoint |
| | Trustee, NatCen |
| | Non-executive Chair, Alexander Mann Solutions |
| | Non-executive Director and Chair, HM Treasury Group Audit Committee |
| Steve Bundred (Chief Executive) | His wife is normally employed by, or contracted with local authorities as an interim manager of children's social services |
| Bharat Shah (Deputy Chair) | (from January 2010) Non-executive Director, Places for People Group |
| Victor Adebowale | CEO/Company Secretary, Turning Point |
| | Co-Chair, Mental Health Delivery, Race Equality Strategy |
| | Commissioner, UK Employment and Training Commission |
| | (Until October 2007) Member, National Employment Panel |
| | National School of Government |
| | Fellow, Sunningdale Institute |
| | Director, Leadership in Mind |
| | Non-Exec Director, St. Vincent's Healthcare Consulting |
| Cllr Merrick Cockell | Elected Member, Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea |
| | Chairman, London Councils |
| | Chairman, Conservative Councillors' Association |
| Jim Coulter | Chair, Bridging Newcastle Gateshead (December 2008 to November 2011) |
| | Board Member, Tenant Services Authority (October 2008 to September 2012) |
| Dr. Jennifer Dixon | Director, Nuffield Trust |
| | Editorial Board Member, Office for Health Economics |
| | (Until March 2009) Board Member, Healthcare Commission |
| Sheila Drew Smith | Non-executive Board Member, Tenant Services Authority (from October 2008) |
| | Chair, Action for Bow Charity |
| | Non-executive Board Member, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (from February 2009) |
| | Independent Public Appointments Assessor, Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments |
| Cllr Steve Houghton | Leader, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council |
| | Barnsley Miller Partnership |
| | Peer, Improvement and Development Agency |
| | Local Government Association Strategy and Finance Policy Review Group |
| Sir Thomas Legg | Non-executive Director, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust |
| | Currently acting as consultant to the Ministry of Justice |
| Dame Denise Platt | NSPCC |
| | University of Bedfordshire |
| | FPA |
| | National Aids Trust |
| | Adventure Capital Fund Trustee |
| | Independent Review Board, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services |

| *Commissioner* | *Interest declared* |
|---|---|
| | Committee for Standards in Public Life |
| | Governing Board of the new School for Social Care Research (National Institute for Health Research) |
| | (Until March 2009) Commission for Social Care Inspection |
| Dr. Raj Rajagopal | No declarations |
| Jenny Watson | Electoral Commission |
| | WRAP |
| Cllr Chris White | Hertfordshire county council |
| | St. Albans City and district council |
| | Board Chair and Executive Member, Local Government Association |
| | Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales |
| | A family Member is an employee of Ernst and Young |

Board Member Gifts and Hospitality

The following table summarises the detail of gifts and hospitality declared by Audit Commission Board members:

| *Notification received* | *From* | *To* | *Nature of gift / hospitality (date)* | *Accepted* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 July 2006 | Deloitte | Jim Coulter | 2 x concert tickets for event at Alnwick Castle (July 26) | Yes |
| 24 July 2008 | Sir Christopher and Lady Kelly | Dame Denise Piatt | Glyndebourne concert ticket (July 27) | Yes |
| 7 May 2009 | PWC partners (Paul Woolston and Janet Eilbeck) | Sheila Drew Smith | lunch at Connaught Hotel (6 May) | Yes |
| 18 August 2009 | PWC partner (Paul Woolston) | Bharat Shah | Building Public Trust Annual Dinner 2009 at The Dorchester (30 September) | Yes |
| 4 September 2009 | David Fielding, Tribal | Bharat Shah | Tribal late summer reception (17 September) | Yes |
| 1 February 2010 | City Inn Westminster | Jim Coulter | 2 x bottles wine (donated to Audit Commission staff social committee to raffle at staff event) (21 January) | Yes |

A record of gifts and hospitality received by the Chairman and Chief Executive is available on our website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/legal/freedomofinformation/Pages/hospitalityregister.aspx

Benefits in Kind

Audit Commission Board Members receive no benefits in kind, but are entitled to claim travel and subsistence expenses incurred on business, in accordance with the arrangements made for the senior staff of the Audit Commission.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what declaration of political activity has been made by each board member and Commissioner of the Audit Commission. [315554]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 5 February2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Three of the Audit Commission Board's members are local government Councillors and represent the three main political parties:

Cllr Merrick Cockell (Conservative), elected Member for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea;

Cllr Stephen Houghton (Labour), elected Member for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council;

Cllr Chris White (Liberal Democrat), elected Member for St Albans City and District Council and Hertfordshire County Council.

On appointment by the Secretary of State, Board members receive Cabinet Office guidance on Codes of Practice for Board Members. The guidance covering political activities, sections (a)-(c), states:

(a) Members of Boards, whether whole-time or part-time, should not serve as officers carrying out executive duties in any political party.

(b) Full-time members should abstain from controversial political activity.

(c) Subject to (a) above, part-time members are free to engage in any political activities, provided that they are conscious of their general public responsibility and exercise proper discretion, particularly in regard to the work of the Boards of which they are members. On matters affecting that work, they should not normally make political speeches or engage in other political activities.

Beyond the political activities carried out by the Commissioners named above in their role as elected Members, there have been no declarations of political activity made by any member of the Audit Commission Board.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

## Building Alterations

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on local authority waiting lists for independent living adaptations and equipment in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the last five years. [315461]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Council Housing: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on improving social housing stock owned by each district council in East Sussex in each year since 1997. [315761]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Expenditure allowances within the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system for each authority in East Sussex with housing stock are given in the following tables. Information on actual expenditure by year on improving council owned social housing is not available.

*Major repairs allowance (MRA)*[1]

£

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 7,917,463 | 8,195,442 | 8,426,205 |
| Eastbourne | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2,363,484 | 2,427,564 | 2,471,834 |
| Lewes | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2,000,557 | 2,052,619 | 2,099,581 |
| Wealden | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,948,349 | 2,002,043 | 2,024,789 |

£

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove | 8,736,125 | 8,985,484 | 8,971,719 | 9,095,425 | 9,066,687 | 9,352,152 | 9,506,261 |
| Eastbourne | 2,533,226 | 2,583,664 | 2,579,098 | 2,615,680 | 2,617,231 | 2,711,808 | 2,754,288 |
| Lewes | 2,167,984 | 2,224,098 | 2,226,199 | 2,258,561 | 2,259,986 | 2,337,548 | 2,373,536 |
| Wealden | 2,094,978 | 2,214,481 | 2,215,602 | 2,253,976 | 2,251,531 | 2,301,688 | 2,323,582 |

[1] MRA was not introduced until 1 April 2001

*Management and maintenance allowances (M and M)*

£

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove | 15,220,265 | 14,980,773 | 14,931,470 | 15,262,050 | 15,980,533 | 17,480,012 | 18,708,004 |
| Eastbourne | 4,093,118 | 3,970,916 | 3,873,781 | 3,893,232 | 3,970,364 | 4,164,987 | 4,373,127 |
| Lewes | 3,212,815 | 3,130,108 | 3,124,602 | 3,169,084 | 3,168,280 | 3,296,800 | 3,467,499 |
| Wealden | 4,013,082 | 3,920,763 | 3,811,434 | 3,694,580 | 3,572,902 | 3,584,830 | 3,425,284 |

£

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove | 18,920,816 | 20,215,688 | 21,857,677 | 22,305,590 | 22,164,072 | 22,910,049 | 23,471,525 |
| Eastbourne | 5,194,968 | 5,453,505 | 5,835,339 | 6,138,943 | 6,356,221 | 6,469,761 | 6,551,787 |
| Lewes | 4,117,387 | 4,398,131 | 4,730,086 | 4,900,999 | 4,982,217 | 5,098,344 | 5,262,638 |
| Wealden | 4,174,174 | 4,495,280 | 4,721,722 | 4,838,213 | 4,819,353 | 4,913,283 | 4,912,150 |

*Note:*
Rother transferred its housing stock in 1998-99.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had on the system of council r[illegible] receipt payments to local authorities. [315946]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In our consultation paper in July, we proposed to end the central pooling of housing capital receipts, so that councils can reinvest these as part of our proposals to move to a self-financing system. Since then we have met with a number of interested stakeholders including local authorities and tenant associations. We plan to make a further announcement in the next few weeks which will describe the progress we have made on self-financing, set-out more details on the proposals and provide a summary of responses to the consultation.

### Council Tax

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on [illegible] of charging orders to collect unpaid council tax. [314969]

**Barbara Follett:** In 1993 the Department of the Environment published a number of Practice Notes to assist local authorities in implementing council tax. Practice Note No. 9 provided non-statutory guidance on the recovery and enforcement of council tax, including the use of charging orders.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister jointly published, with the Government Operational Research Service, a Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report in 2004. The report looked at ways of sharing good practice among practitioners, in order to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection. Annexe D of the report covers the use of charging orders.

## Councillors

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Audit Commission and *(c)* the Standards Board for England has issued on whether the whistleblowing protection provisions of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 apply to councillors in their capacity as a member of the local authority in which they wish to disclose confidential information in the public interest. [314975]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Neither this Department, the Audit Commission, nor the Standards Board have issued specific guidance for local authority members about the whistleblowing protection provisions of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

## Councillors: Isle of Wight

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of the investigation of the Standards Board for England relating to six councillors on the Isle of Wight in respect of *(a)* the tribunal hearing and *(b)* all other costs. [315800]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Following the transfer of the administration of the First-tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) to the Tribunals Service last year, costs related to tribunal proceedings are a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

The cost to the Standards Board of the investigation into the six cases and presentation of four of the cases at tribunal, which led to all four councillors being found in breach of the councillors' code of conduct and the tribunal imposing sanctions ranging from censure to a two year suspension, is estimated at £328,000.

## Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315065]

**Barbara Follett:** The Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments would aim to pay invoices within 10 days. Communities and Local Government commenced reporting of 10 day payment performance in November 2008.

In November 2008, 77.89 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. The latest available data are for December 2009, when 92.91 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. This means that payment performance has increased by 15.02 per cent. points over this period.

We do not differentiate payments by supplier size as we have determined to pay all suppliers within 10 days.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315167]

**Barbara Follett:** Embedded communicator is not an officially designated term in the Department so there is no clear definition of who would meet the criteria. However I can confirm that eight members of staff at the Department are members of the Government Communications Network working full-time on communications outside of the Communications Directorate and not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

Information about any communications staff employed by the Department's agencies is not held centrally.

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 6 January 2010, on new faith advisers, what declaration of political activity was made by each adviser he has appointed; and how many advisers have declared membership of a political party. [311796]

**Mr. Malik:** Applicants for the unpaid advisor roles were not required to declare political activity or membership of a political party.

## Departmental Public Consultation

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities have paid to each external consultant contracted to undertake public consultations in each of the last five years. [315088]

**Barbara Follett:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much area-based grant was allocated in respect of waste collection and waste disposal in the most recent year for which figures are available; what proportion of the total area-based grant this represented; and what targets and performance indicators there are for local authorities in respect of such funding. [314989]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Area Based Grant (ABG) is an unringfenced grant and there are no separate allocations for specific purposes. Government funding for local authorities' responsibilities for waste collection and disposal is, in the main, provided through Formula Grant which comprises Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates. Formula Grant is also unhypothecated, and the use of this funding is, like ABG, for local authorities to determine.

There are no targets and performance indicators relevant to waste collection and disposal with respect to ABG.

### Empty Property: Sussex

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of empty *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial properties in (i) Mid Sussex constituency and (ii) Mid Sussex local authority area in the last five years. [314782]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of empty residential properties in the Mid Sussex local authority area in 2005 to 2009 is shown in the following table.

*Mid Sussex*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,661 |
| 2006 | 1,720 |
| 2007 | 1,534 |
| 2008 | 1,547 |
| 2009 | 1,565 |

The data are both short-term and long-term empty dwellings as reported annually by all billing authorities in England in October of the year. Data are not available at a constituency level.

The Department is planning to publish experimental official statistics in February on the number of hereditaments benefiting from small business rate relief and the number of empty hereditaments. This statistical release will provide a national estimate for the number of empty non-domestic properties in England.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on whether reductions in the number of *(a)* fire stations, *(b)* fire appliances and *(c)* fire-fighters may be classified as efficiency savings for the purposes of (i) annual efficiency statements to his Department and (ii) calculating the value of efficiency savings on council tax bills. [315038]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department has issued efficiency guidance to fire and rescue authorities and I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House. In order to be considered an efficiency gain, all savings must be sustainable and subject to a quality cross-check measure to ensure services to communities are as, or more, effective following implementation of the efficiency measure. A sustainable efficiency gain is "an efficiency gain which exists for the current year and at least two subsequent financial years afterwards". Efficiency savings are reported by fire and rescue authorities in their annual efficiency statements. Since 2008-09 local authority and fire and rescue authority efficiency savings have been published on the billing authority's council tax demand.

### Fire Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many combined aerial rescue pump vehicles have been purchased by the fire and rescue service in *(a)* South Yorkshire and *(b)* East Yorkshire and Humberside in the last five years; at what cost those purchases were made; and who authorised those purchases; [314835]

(2) how many combined aerial rescue pump vehicles in *(a)* South Yorkshire and *(b)* East Yorkshire and Humberside are not in use by fire and rescue services; and for what reasons those vehicles are not in use. [314836]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The procurement of equipment is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities to decide on and authorise. The Department does not maintain information on individual FRS procurements.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Procurement

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 18W, on departmental procurement, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the Government Office for *(a)* the South West, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* London, *(d)* the West Midlands, *(e)* the East Midlands, *(f)* the East of England, *(g)* the North East, *(h)* the North West and *(i)* Yorkshire and the Humber in 2008-09. [314983]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Holocaust Memorial Day

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313933]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government fund the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, a registered charity, to co-ordinate a national event to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day every year. The Trust also supports and co-ordinates local events across England, Wales and Scotland.

This year was a significant milestone, representing the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was "The Legacy of Hope"—people learning from the past, to give hope for the future. Several hundred people, including many survivors, gathered at the national event in London, to listen to the testimonies of victims and survivors alike. Tens of thousands of people gathered at hundreds of local events drawing on the same theme.

I was also pleased to open a Topical Debate on the subject of Holocaust Memorial Day in the House on 28 January this year, in which many hon. and right hon. Members from all sides participated.

### Housing: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions the Government have had with *(a)* Coventry City Council, *(b)* Warwick District Council and *(c)* others on the allocation of 33,500 new homes as part of the regional housing strategy in Coventry. [314695]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]*: The draft regional spatial spatial strategy (RSS) submitted to Government by the West Midlands regional assembly in December 2007 included an allocation of 33,500 new homes for Coventry and indicated that some of the allocation could be made within Nuneaton and Bedworth and Warwick districts. This had been subject to consultation and was agreed by the local councils. Officials have regularly met and discussed the delivery of these homes with the councils as they prepare their core strategies, which provide a district level plan for the distribution of future housing development. Officials have also participated in discussions on the issue at the examinations of the RSS revision (April-June 2009) and the Coventry core strategy (November-December 2009). A wide range of parties was involved in those discussions.

### Housing: South West

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social and *(b)* affordable homes there were in each planning authority area in the South West in each year since 2005. [316053]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The term "social homes" has been interpreted as being local authority and registered social landlord social rented dwelling stock. This information is collected centrally by local authority area rather than planning authority area.

Information on local authority dwelling stock by local authority for each year since 1994 is shown in live table 116 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Information on registered social landlord dwelling stock by local authority for each year since 1997 is shown in live table 115 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140879.xls

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of undertaking local economic area assessments. [314971]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department published a full impact assessment for the local authority economic assessment duty in December 2008. This informed our consideration of the additional burdens likely to fall on local authorities resulting from the new duty. The Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities are fully and properly funded so that there is no upward pressure on council tax bills. Additional funding for the local authority economic assessment has been provided through Area Based Grant.

A copy of the impact assessment will be deposited in the Library of the House.

### Local Government: Cornwall

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cost savings have been made in local government in Cornwall since the date of its reorganisation; what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Boundary Committee made of such savings prior to reorganisation; and if he will make a statement. [314981]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) gave on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 381W to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps). The Boundary Committee made no estimate of such savings prior to reorganisation in Cornwall.

### Local Government: Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many powers granting or augmenting the ability of local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices his Department has introduced since May 2005. [314945]

**Barbara Follett:** Since May 2005, we have provided local authorities with powers to issue fixed penalty notices in the following areas: breach of duties in relation to the provision of home information packs under Part 5 of the Housing Act 2004; and breach of duty in relation to Energy Performance Certificates, Display Energy Certificates or Air Conditioning Inspections or Reports under Regulations 40 and 43 of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

### Local Government: Norfolk

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from the Boundary Committee on the level of support in Norfolk for the creation of a single unitary authority in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [314972]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Boundary Committee's advice to the Secretary of State of 7 December 2009, which includes its advice on the likelihood of its alternative proposal for a unitary Norfolk delivering the outcomes specified by the broad cross section of support criterion, is available in the Library of the House or on the Committee's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norfolk-structural-review

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate *(a)* he and *(b)* the Boundary Committee has made of the level of savings made by (i) district councils and (ii) other local authorities in Norfolk since the financial year 2007-08. [314984]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Before taking his statutory decisions on the unitary proposals before him for Norfolk, the assessments which the Secretary of State will make will include an assessment of the likelihood of each proposal, were it to be implemented, delivering the outcomes specified by the affordability criterion. In making this assessment, he will have regard to financial data, including data on savings, provided by the councils concerned to the Boundary Committee and to him, and to any assessment of this data by the Committee's or his independent financial consultants.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment *(a)* he and *(b)* the Boundary Committee has made of support among residents for a new unitary authority for Norfolk. [314986]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now carefully considering the Boundary Committee's advice, all the representations he has received, including those of Norfolk residents, and all other relevant information, before taking his statutory decisions about whether to implement any of the unitary proposals before him for Norfolk, with or without modification, or to take no action. In their advice to the Secretary of State of 7 December 2009 the Boundary Committee has noted that in Norfolk there was a strong level of support for retaining the current local government arrangements and where it received support for a county unitary authority this has come from across the county and from a variety of key stakeholders.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to update the financial information on which the Boundary Committee based its advice for unitary status in Norfolk. [314991]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The independent financial consultants whom the Department have appointed have analysed the financial data available on each of the unitary proposals for Norfolk, including comparing data provided originally by councils and modelled by the Boundary Committee with 2008-09 accounts and 2009-10 budgets.

## Local Government: Reorganisation

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the net effect on public expenditure of introducing unitary local authorities in England. [316002]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Our pre-Budget report makes clear that measures to reduce duplication and inefficiency between different tiers of local government will contribute to the £11 billion a year of savings which, as announced in that report, will be delivered by 2012-13. The nine new unitary councils established on 1 April 2009 show the capacity for savings with estimated savings either directly attributable to the transition to unitary local government or facilitated by it totalling some £159 million included in their 2009-10 budgets.

However, we have no plans for further programmes of invitations under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to councils in two-tier areas to submit unitary proposals. We recognise that in some specific cases in the future there might be areas where circumstances are such as to warrant a focused and targeted invitation to councils concerned, and the 2007 Act allows for this.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what formula is applied to determine the number of councillors in a new unitary authority area established to replace a two-tier structure; what the recommended range for the number of electors per councillor in a non-metropolitan unitary authority is; and if he will make a statement. [314973]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Electoral arrangements, including the number of councillors in each local authority, are generally matters for the Boundary Committee for England and the Electoral Commission (from 1 April 2010 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England), and there are no recommended ranges for the number of electors per councillor. It is open to the Secretary of State to include in any structural change Order, implementing a unitary proposal, provision for electoral arrangements to apply pending any electoral review by the Boundary Committee. When including such provision the Secretary of State will have regard to the number of electors per councillor in other similar unitary councils and to any representations he receives on the matter.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which *(a)* elected councillors and *(b)* council officials (i) he and (ii) officials of his Department have met since January 2009 to discuss proposals for local government reorganisation in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. [314974]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Since January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, my ministerial colleagues and I, and officials in Communities and Local Government, have had a range of meetings with councillors and council officers from Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk as part of our usual business, during which the issue of local government restructuring may have been raised.

Since 8 December 2009, when the period for representations to be made to the Secretary of State about the Boundary Committee's advice began, meetings with affected local councils have taken place for representations to be made on the unitary proposals or for discussions on possible transitional arrangements.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, the hon. Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) and I met the following councillors and officers during this time:

*Devon*

Devon County Council:

- Councillor John Clatworthy (Deputy Leader),
- Councillor Brian Greenslade (Shadow Leader of the Council),
- Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, and
- a senior officer of the council

*East Devon District Council:*
Councillor Ray Franklin
*Exeter City Council:*
Councillor Peter Edwards,
Councillor Jeff Coates and
the chief executive
*Mid Devon District Council:*
Councillor Peter Hare-Scott (Leader)
*North Devon District Council:*
Councillor Des Brailey (Leader)
*South Hams District Council:*
Councillor Michael Hicks
*Torridge District Council:*
Councillor James Morrish (Leader)
*West Devon District Council:*
Councillor James McInnes (Leader)

*Norfolk*

Norwich City Council:
Councillor Stephen Morphew (Leader),
the chief executive and
another senior officer
Breckland District Council:
Councillor William Nunn (Leader) and
the chief executive
Broadland District Council:
Councillor Roger Foulger and
the chief executive
Great Yarmouth BC:
Councillor Barry Coleman (Leader),
the chief executive and
another senior officer
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council:
Councillor Nick Daubney (Leader) and
the chief executive
North Norfolk District Council:
Councillor Virginia Gay (Leader) and
the chief executive
South Norfolk District Council:
Councillor John Fuller (Leader),
the chief executive and
another senior officer

*Suffolk*

Forest Heath District Council:
Councillor Geoffrey Jaggard (Leader) and
the chief executive
Ipswich Borough Council:
Councillor Liz Harsant (Leader),
the chief executive and
another senior officer
Mid Suffolk District Council:
Councillor Tim Passmore (Leader) and
the chief executive
St Edmundsbury Borough Council:
Councillor John Griffiths (Leader) and
the chief executive
Suffolk Coastal District Council:
Councillor Ray Herring (Leader),
Councillor Andy Smith (Deputy Leader) and
the chief executive
Suffolk County Council:
Councillor Jeremy Pembroke (Leader) and
the chief executive
Waveney District Council:
Councillor Mark Bee (Leader),
Councillor Colin Law (Deputy Leader),
the chief executive and
another senior officer

Officials also met:

*Devon*

Devon County Council: the chief executive and senior officers
Exeter City Council: the chief executive and senior officers
South Hams District Council: the chief executive

*Norfolk*

Broadland DC: the chief executive
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk BC: the chief executive and senior officers
Norfolk County Council: the chief executive and a senior officer
Norwich City Council: the chief executive and a senior officer
South Norfolk DC: Councillor Richard Kemp and a senior officer

*Suffolk*

Forest Heath District Council: the chief executive and a senior officer
Ipswich Borough Council: the chief executive and a senior officer
St Edmundsbury Borough Council: a senior officer
Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils: the chief executive and senior officers

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list for each unitary authority created since 2007 the period of time which elapsed between the decision to implement the Boundary Committee's proposals for unitary status and the election of councillors to a shadow unitary authority. [314980]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** No unitary authority has been created since 2007 which involved implementing proposals of the Boundary Committee.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many posts in each of the unitary authorities created since 2007 have been abolished as a result of reorganisation; and how much in total has been paid in redundancy payments. [314987]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The establishment of nine new unitary councils on 1 April 2009 has led to a reduction of 330 senior management posts across those authorities, saving £23 million per annum and involving 44 chief executives leaving office through resignation, redundancy or retirement. There are also other staff reductions, on which information is not held centrally, contributing to the efficiency savings being made by the nine new unitary councils which are expected to total over £150 million this year.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons his Department's consultation on proposals for unitary local government draft structural change orders is shorter than the 12 weeks recommended in the Code of Practice on Consultation. [315039]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We have sought by 3 February 2010 views from the councils potentially affected by any decision to implement unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk on the main possible transitional arrangements, recognising the need to end uncertainty and to move forward as quickly as practicable.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to redrawing *(a)* ward and *(b)* district boundaries in (i) Norfolk, (ii) Suffolk and (iii) Devon consequent on proposals for the reorganisation of local government in each in order to meet requirements for the equal distribution of councillors. [315156]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We are considering the Boundary Committee's advice carefully as well as all the representations we have received in relation to the Committee's alternative proposals, all of which for the three county areas would involve changes to district boundaries.

We have sought, by 3 February 2010, the views of the councils potentially affected by any decision to implement unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk on the main possible transitional arrangements, including electoral arrangements for the first elections to any new unitary authority. We will have regard to these views when preparing any structural change orders.

### Local Government: Standards

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library the combined Comprehensive Area Assessment and Comprehensive Performance Assessment results for each local authority. [314968]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 5 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The full Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) results dataset for each local authority and local area is held on the Oneplace website:

http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx

A list of the organisational assessment scores published on 9 December 2009 for each local authority (which form one element of the CAA results) is shown on the attached schedule. This can also be found on the Oneplace website:

http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/oascores/2009_OA_scores_all_organisations.xls

Archived copies of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) results from 2002-2008 can be found on the Audit Commission website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/cpa/pages/default.aspx

As the CAA and CPA frameworks measure things differently, the results arising from the different frameworks should not be combined.

A copy of this letter has been placed in Hansard and the attached schedule has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Local Government: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure each local authority in Suffolk had incurred in respect of the proposed reorganisation of local government in Suffolk on the latest date for which figures are available. [314865]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally by this Department.

### Multiple Occupation: Licensing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to publish its response to the Building Research Establishment report on licensing of houses in multiple occupation. [315799]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Our response to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) report on licensing of houses in multiple occupation was published as part of the written ministerial statement of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 54-56WS.

### Muslim Council of Britain

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons he decided to resume contacts with the Muslim Council of Britain; whom he consulted on that decision; and if he will make a statement. [314041]

**Mr. Malik:** The Muslim Council of Britain has made a commitment to Government to examine their internal processes and ensure that the personal actions of all members, including senior leaders, remain true to the organisation's agreed policies.

The MCB has stated its categorical opposition to attacks on British defence interests and confirmed its unwavering support for British troops across the world. It has also made clear that it stands firmly against anti-Semitism and other forms of racism.

The significance of these actions on the part of the MCB has led to the Government lifting the suspension of their formal relationship with that organisation.

We have engaged in a variety of discussions with community stakeholders from a range of faiths on this issue since March and have been able to take the views expressed in those discussions into account in considering our response to the MCB. We also had an ongoing dialogue with other Government Departments on this issue.

The relevant correspondence is publicly available on the departmental website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1438273ll.pdf

### Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 234W, on non-domestic rates: empty property, if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations made by the other groups listed. [314966]

**Barbara Follett:** The representations from the:

Association of Convenience Stores;

The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire;

Weymouth and Portland Chamber of Commerce; and

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,

have been placed in the Library of the House.

My answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 234W incorrectly recorded the Weymouth and Portland Chamber of Commerce representation as being two representations, one from the Weymouth Chamber of Commerce and one from the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

On further investigation, the letter from the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation was in fact from an individual member writing in a private capacity and not a representation from the Institute itself. It has, therefore, not been placed in the Library of the House on data protection grounds.

Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term. They provide a strong incentive on owners to bring empty property back into use, helping to improve access to premises for businesses and so to exert a downward pressure on commercial rents.

However, we provided owners with real help to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market by exempting all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 from business rates in 2009-10.

We have listened to the continued concerns of owners and are extending the temporary measure for a further 12 months—to cover the whole of 2010-11—and we are uprating the threshold to £18,000 in line with the general movement of property values at revaluation.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many petrol retail outlets have had a reduction in their rateable value for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect from 1 April 2010; [311046]

(2) how many petrol retail outlets have been notified that their rateable value *(a)* has been reduced, *(b)* remains unchanged and *(c)* has risen by over (i) 10 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent., (iii) 100 per cent., (iv) 150 per cent., (v) 200 per cent., (vi) 250 per cent., (vii) 300 per cent. and (viii) 350 per cent. for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect on 14 April 2010. [311049]

**Barbara Follett:** All petrol retail outlets have been sent a summary valuation of their property from the Valuation Office Agency which explains and illustrates how their rateable value has been calculated. Ratepayers have been invited to contact their local valuation officer if they think the information in the summary valuation is incorrect.

The following table is for petrol filling stations with a with a Special Category Valuation Office Agency (VOA SCAT) code of 209 in England only. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

These figures include all property recorded as petrol filling stations using VOA SCAT Code 209. It is not possible to identify and include in the figures hypermarkets and other properties retailing petrol. These are recorded under other SCAT codes.

| *Percentage change* | *Number of hereditaments* |
|---|---|
| Decrease | 480 |
| No change | 0 |
| Equal to or less than 10 per cent. | 480 |
| Increases of more than 10 per cent., less than or equal to 50 per cent. | 1630 |
| Increases of more than 50 per cent., less than or equal to 100 per cent. | 1550 |
| Increases of more than 100 per cent., less than or equal to 150 per cent. | 720 |
| Increases of more than 150 per cent., less than or equal to 200 per cent. | 320 |
| Increases of more than 200 per cent., less than or equal to 250 per cent. | 180 |
| Increases of more than 250 per cent., less than or equal to 300 per cent. | 90 |
| Increases of more than 300 per cent., less than or equal to 350 per cent. | 70 |
| Increases over 350 per cent. | 130 |

*Note:*

The percentage change in a property's rateable value is not the same as the percentage change in its rates bill. Our £2 billion transitional relief scheme will ensure that in 2010-11 no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties.

These data are consistent with the statistical release entitled 'Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Rating Lists—England and Wales', published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

The data exclude petrol retail outlets in hypermarkets/superstores.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government. Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

The percentage increase in rateable value does not necessarily result in a similar increase in rates liability. As the total rateable value for the whole country is increasing by approximately 20 per cent., only businesses with an increase over this figure will see an increase in their bills.

The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

### Planning Permission: Appeals

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals against planning appeal decisions were upheld in the High Court in each of the last five years; and in respect of which such appeals all legal proceedings have been completed. [316050]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The numbers of High Court challenges to planning appeal decisions over the last five years were as follows:

2008-09: 97 challenges decided of which 31 were successful;

2007-08: 64 challenges decided of which 18 were successful;

2006-07: 69 challenges decided of which 37 were successful;

2005-06: 60 challenges decided of which 21 were successful; and

2004-05: 74 challenges decided of which 29 were successful.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what monitoring his Department undertakes of the decisions taken by inspectors at planning appeals. [316051]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department monitors the professional quality standards of the Planning Inspectorate through the Advisory Panel on Standards. The Panel prepares an annual report for the Secretary of State on matters affecting the maintenance of quality within the Inspectorate. In doing so panel members have access to inspectors' reports and decisions and to other relevant material associated with resolved complaints, High Court challenges or Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman cases.

The target is that 99 per cent. of the Inspectorate's casework should be free from justified complaint.

### Property Development: Floods

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to planning guidance as a result of the 2007 floods. [315989]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods found that the policy approach in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), "Development and Flood Risk", is sound and should be rigorously applied. In June 2008, Communities and Local Government published a Practice Guide to PPS25 which reflected the more detailed findings of Sir Michael Pitt's review and took account of responses to the earlier 'living draft' version of the guide, including responses made in the light of the 2007 floods. A further updated version of the guide was published on 7 December 2009.

In 2009 we carried out an initial review of the implementation of PPS25. This found that good progress was being made and the policy was working in helping to deliver sustainable development that is safe from flood risk. This view is supported by the Environment Agency. In August 2009 Communities and Local Government published consultation proposals to amend and clarify some limited aspects of PPS25. We will publish a revised version of PPS25 soon with refinements to further improve the policy's implementation and effectiveness.

### Regeneration and Housing: South East

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided for *(a)* regeneration and *(b)* housing projects in each local authority area in South East England in each year since 1997; and how much such funding his Department plans to provide in 2010-11. [315768]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The data requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Regional Government

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list the addresses of each overseas office of each *(a)* regional assembly and *(b)* regional leaders' board; how many staff are employed in each such office; and what the cost to the public purse was of each in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [315036]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** No regional assembly or regional leaders' board has a sole office overseas. However there are offices for each region in Brussels which are funded by a wide range of partners. The East of England and North West offices are managed by the respective assembly and leaders' board on behalf of a group of regional partners.

The costs of running these offices are drawn from a wide range of bodies. Records on these costs are not centrally held.

### Regional Planning and Development: South West

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made on the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West. [316052]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Following the judgment on the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), my Noble Friend Lord McKenzie announced in November that he had agreed that additional sustainability appraisal work should be carried out for the SW RSS. This is currently being undertaken and should be complete in the Spring. Ministers will then consider how to take forward the SW RSS.

### Tenancy Deposit Schemes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of tenancy agreements covered by each tenancy deposit scheme licensed by his Department; and what the monetary value of deposits held in each scheme was at the latest date for which figures are available. [316178]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** At the end of September 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, a total of 1,690,000 deposits were protected by the three Government approved tenancy deposit protection schemes. The total value of the deposits protected was £1.6 billion. I am unable to provide a breakdown for the individual schemes for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

## Tenants Service Authority

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* management statement and *(b)* financial memorandum in respect of the (i) Tenant Services Authority and (ii) Homes and Communities Agency. [316179]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1305W.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 8 February 2010*

## WALES

### Council Tax

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister for Wales on assistance to Service families resident in Wales in receiving the 50 per cent. reduction in council tax liability. [314552]

**Mr. Hain:** My colleague the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has discussed this matter in detail with the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Local Government and Social Justice. I understand that the Welsh Assembly Government are now amending the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998 to provide that billing authorities may not reduce the council tax discount for second homes owned by armed forces personnel who live in accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA68, on Government Departments: annual reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315608]

**Mr. David:** The Wales Office does not publish an annual report on departmental communications. The Wales Office publishes a single annual report covering all aspects of Wales Office work.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315540]

**Mr. David:** The Wales Office employs three communications staff who work in the press office. All three members of staff are listed in the Central Office of Information White Book.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of his Department managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313849]

**Ann McKechin:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 5W.

### Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what payments were made by his Department and each of its agencies to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315613]

**Ann McKechin:** The Newspaper Licensing Agency figures shown in the table include cumulative and backdated NLA payments for the years 1999 to 2005 inclusive. The Scotland Office has sought to reduce its costs on an ongoing basis in line with good practice.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 to 2006-07 | 7,853 |
| 2007-08 | 3,203 |
| 2008-09 | 285 |

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA68, on Government Departments: Annual Reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether her Office publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315605]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual report and accounts document which records the performance and financial situation of the Department. The report contains information on the progress of the Department against its six departmental strategic objectives, the public service agreements for which it leads delivery, the service transformation agreement and other targets.

Within this framework the annual report provides information on relevant areas of communications delivery. However there is no specific annual report published by the Cabinet Office reporting solely on departmental communications.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 962-3W, on departmental training, on what dates the training was provided. [315780]

**Barbara Keeley:** The media skills training course attended by a Minister from the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons took place during the 2007-08 financial year.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to reply to the e-mail from the hon. Member for Totnes, dated 27 January 2010, on Haiti. [316232]

**Barbara Keeley:** My right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House of Commons, has today responded to the hon. Member for Totnes' e-mail dated 27 January 2010, on Haiti.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will place in the Library a copy of any advice issued to staff of her Office on stress recognition and management. [316477]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007.

I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 412W:

> "The Cabinet Office is committed to the health and well-being of its staff and has policies, procedures and support in place to identify, manage and reduce workplace stress.
>
> I have placed a copy of the Department's Stress Recognition and Management Guide in the Library."

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Moths: House of Commons

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proposals there are to end the infestation of moths in T block; and if he will make a statement. [315739]

**Nick Harvey:** Significant numbers of the Common House Moth (Tineola bisselliella) were first reported in the House in early 2008 and preventative treatment has been undertaken since then. In order to minimise the use of pesticides and the consequent risk of exposure to potential toxicants, a process involving moth pheromone has been employed. Although activity in T block remains an issue, monitoring of moth activity shows that moth numbers within the House of Commons estate are generally declining. Alternative methods of eradication, including heat treatment of items and individual spraying of offices to kill larvae, are being considered.

### Reform

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on steps taken by staff of the House in taking forward work arising from the recommendations and conclusions of the House of Commons Reform Committee in its First Report of Session 2008-09, Rebuilding the House, HC 1117. [316600]

**Nick Harvey:** Upon publication of the report in November, the Clerk of the House set in hand work on the possible changes to procedures and practices which would be required were the House to endorse some or all of the recommendations and conclusions, including possible changes to Standing Orders and changes to procedures and practices.

Some recommendations and conclusions proposed specific work by the House. A progress report on these is set out as follows.

*Recommendation 38—Piloting of a more open approach to the scheduling of public bill committee evidence sessions and production by the relevant authorities of a report for the appropriate committee in the new Parliament:*

Attempts have been made over the past two months to develop a more open approach to public bill committee evidence scheduling, in co-operation with all concerned. A Scrutiny Unit report is therefore in the process of preparation, with a view to presenting it to the appropriate select committee in the new Parliament.

*Recommendations 41 and 42—Shift in the primary focus of the House's public engagement agenda towards greater degree of public participation, and opportunity for the public to influence the content of draft laws:*

Discussion at official level is under way on the future pattern and direction of the House's public engagement effort, in the light of these two recommendations. Thought is being given to approaches which would give "a real opportunity to the public to influence the content of draft laws". Decisions would be required to be taken by the proper authorities, including the House of Commons Commission and possibly the House itself, in the new Parliament.

*Recommendation 43—Commissioning of investigation of practicalities of a national equivalent of "petitions requiring debate":*

The Parliament and Constitution Centre in the Department of Information Services is looking further into the agenda initiative issue, as part of its general research effort. The results of the research, which should be completed by the start of the new Parliament, will inform future debate and decision on the practicalities of any sort of agenda initiative at national level. The study will of course make no assumptions about what view the House may take in future.

*Recommendation 44—Urgent discussions on a new costed scheme for e-petitions:*

The urgent discussions recommended by the Committee have taken place. A revised outline scheme is being prepared which is likely to be cheaper than the scheme proposed in April 2008. It will in due course be for the House in this or the next Parliament to decide whether or not to proceed.

*Recommendation 48—Information for petitioners of relevant House proceedings:*

House staff are preparing to pilot two alternative routes for giving suitable information to petitioners, via the Member who presented the relevant petition, with a view to identifying the best way forward early on in the new Parliament. This can then be put to the appropriate committee for decision.

*Recommendation 50—House authorities to work up a scheme on motions for House debate:*

A scheme for motions for House debate, identifying a number of options, is currently being worked up, with a view to presenting it to the appropriate committee in the new Parliament.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA68, on Government Departments: annual reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315610]

**Paul Goggins:** Communications are included in the annual departmental report.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315542]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Information Service is responsible for all communications within the Department and all press officers are listed in the COI White Book.

### Driving Offences

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what mechanisms have been established to enable data sharing in respect of fixed penalty motoring offences between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Irish Garda in accordance with the principle of mutual recognition of financial penalties. [315998]

**Paul Goggins:** Roads policing policy in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the Department of Environment. The sharing of data between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Siochana in relation to motoring offences is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked the Chief Constable to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many separate bookings for hotels graded at five star or above were made through the Expotel booking service by his Department in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost such bookings were made. [315543]

**Paul Goggins:** No bookings were made through the Expotel booking service.

### Slavery

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will discuss with the First Minister the introduction into the Northern Ireland Assembly of a Bill to establish a national day to raise awareness of the need to eradicate all forms of slavery. [314319]

**Mr. Woodward:** I would gladly discuss these matters if invited to do so by the First and Deputy First Minister.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of any advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [316528]

**Paul Goggins:** The Department has a duty under Northern Ireland health and safety legislation to ensure so far as reasonably practicable the health and safety of all staff, including the recognition and management of stress.

To meet these responsibilities, managers within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are required to attend a mandatory "Addressing Stress" training course. A copy of the guidance issued to managers on this course has been placed in the Library.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Crown Prosecution Service: Art Works

**David Simpson:** To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 244W, on departmental public expenditure, what the arrangements are within the Crown Prosecution Service for the authorisation of the acquisition of works of art; whether payments made in connection with the acquisition of such art works are subject to *(a)* monthly or *(b)* annual financial returns; and what post-payment internal audit arrangements are in place. [316504]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has formal financial delegation and approval control systems in place to cover all expenditure. The systems require that any expenditure must be made in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Financial delegation limits are checked at the point of payment. All expenditure on assets that cost £500 or more is recorded and checked separately. There is no record that the Department has incurred expenditure on works of art in excess of this limit.

There is no requirement for either monthly or annual financial returns in respect of expenditure on works of art.

The procurement and payment system is subject to periodic review by the CPS's Internal Audit Division. Such reviews take place routinely on an annual basis.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1014W, on departmental written questions; by which mechanism the Law Officers' Departments monitor their responses to parliamentary questions; what the target times for responses is; and how success against that target is measured. [316507]

**The Solicitor-General:** My office now routinely collects statistical data measuring our performance in answering written questions within one week of tabling or on the specified named day. For the present session we are currently answering 83.6 per cent. of written PQs within these targets. With effect from the current Session of

Parliament, each Department has agreed to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Government Olympic Executive has spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each year since its inception. [312516]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government Olympic Executive reports to me through the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) therefore figures are included in the answer provided by the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon).

### Olympic Games 2012: Portsmouth

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that the Portsmouth region obtains a legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [313072]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) have established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy for London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to maximise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 Games. Some examples of how Portsmouth is benefiting from the Games are as follows.

In Portsmouth 895 small and medium sized enterprises have registered on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service which enables businesses to compete for Games-related contract opportunities. These businesses have also been supported by Business Link, a Government run online support and advice service. Business Link is running an Advanced Bid Writing Workshop in Portsmouth on 24 February to support local businesses in securing contracts related to the Games. Other similar events will take place in the area in the coming months.

Additional local assistance and funding was agreed in December 2009 to maximise tourism opportunities arising from 2012, and the Solent area is one of four areas targeted for this support across the South East region. This includes funding support to assist with global marketing to showcase the area and maximise tourism opportunities during and beyond the 2012 games. The provision of customer care training to promote a commitment to high level customer service for visitors is part of this programme.

To make the UK a world-leading sporting nation and increase active participation in sports is at the heart of the Government's legacy ambitions. In the South East, there are 134 facilities included in the Pre-Games Training Camp Guide which are available to teams from the UK and overseas to use. The Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth has had several visits from representatives of nations participating in the Games. Malawi has signed a memorandum of understanding to hold its pre-games training camp in Portsmouth. Work to encourage other visiting nations to hold training camps across the region is ongoing.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Armed Forces

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1201W, on the Afghan National Army, what information his Department holds on the tribal origin of *(a)* the commander, *(b)* officers and *(c)* non-commissioned officers of the Afghan troop force in Helmand province. [312409]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The requested information on the tribal origins of 205 Corps from which the majority of Afghan National Army troops in Helmand are drawn is provided in the table:

| | | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pashtun* | *Tajik* | *Hazara* | *Uzbek* | *Others* |
| Officer | 45 | 44 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Non Commissioned Officers | 42 | 45 | 7 | 3 | 5 |

*Note:*

These data have been provided by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. The Commander of 205 Corps is Pashtun.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residences his Department owns for the purpose of housing members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above; and what the value is of each such property. [316393]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** In accordance with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations, officers of Brigadier (or equivalent) rank and above are normally entitled to Type I or II Service Family Accommodation (SFA).

| *SFA Type* | *MOD owns* |
|---|---|
| I | 20 |
| II | 62 |

In addition to this the MOD leases under various arrangements a number of properties.

With regard to the value of the properties, details of all MOD holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations, can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website, last published in 2007:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

The requested details of all property below £1 million in value, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The value of leased properties is a commercial matter for the companies concerned.

### Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since 1997. [314227]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence delivers security for the equal benefit of all the people of the UK, and the Overseas Territories, by defending them, including against terrorism; and acting as a force for good in the world by strengthening international peace and stability. Our continuing main effort of success in Afghanistan, preventing al-Qaeda from having a secure base from which to threaten us directly, keeps our country safe from the threat of terrorism.

The Service Personnel Command Paper set out the nation's commitment to our armed forces, their families and veterans. This is a cross-Government initiative that is making real differences to the lives of our Service personnel, veterans and their families and we are fully committed to upholding its key principles. The first annual report on the Service Personnel Command Paper was published on 19 November 2009. This report captured the progress made against the commitments of the Command Paper within the first year following its launch. It can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Showcase/ProvidingForOurPeople.htm

The report sets out the substantial progress that has been made including:

Compensation for most serious injuries doubled;

Free further education for Service leavers;

Retention of places on NHS waiting lists;

Local Connection legislation amended in England and Wales, with a similar exercise currently being worked on in Scotland, to give Service leavers credit for having lived and worked in an area when applying for social housing; and

From April 2009, ex-Service men and women who are seriously injured were given priority for specially adapted social homes.

Defence Statistics are not available at constituency level, but regional statistics on service personnel numbers and defence employment can be found on the Defence Analytical Service and Advice website. Location of military personnel can be found in Tri Service Publication 10 at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=67&pubType=0&thiscontent=100&date=2010-01-28

Regional defence employment can be found in Tables 1.11, 1.11a and 1.11b in UK Defence Statistics 2009 at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2009/c1/table111b.html

Additionally, although not defence-related, the Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

### HMS Sultan

**Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the future of HMS Sultan; and if he will make a statement. [314701]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Under the current proposals put forward by the Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1 (P1) Preferred Bidder, the Metrix Consortium, training activity at HMS Sultan is due to transfer to St. Athan, South Wales, no later than 2020.

Following this move and assuming that there is no further Defence requirement for the HMS Sultan site, the property will be declared surplus and considered for disposal with the most appropriate use determined with the local planning authority.

### Middle East: Armed Forces

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are stationed in the Middle East other than in Iraq; and where each contingent is stationed. [315922]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 37W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

### Reserve Forces: Injuries

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provides for reservists who sustain injuries on deployment which render them unfit to *(a)* return to work and *(b)* return to work in their previous earning capacity. [316086]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Our reserve forces have served this country with distinction in all the major conflicts and crises that we have faced in recent times. They play a vital role in both overseas operations and in the defence of the UK. Reservists who sustain injuries or illness whilst mobilised may be retained in service, prior to being demobilised and returning to work, to ensure that they receive the best possible welfare support and care and are eligible for the full range of Defence Medical Services. Once reservists have been demobilised their local reserve unit continues to ensure that they have access to welfare services. Reservists that are medically discharged as a result of injuries sustained during deployment are also entitled to resettlement training and to the range of services available to regular veterans.

Members or former members of the reserve forces may qualify for awards under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), where service is the only or main cause of injury or illness. AFCS consists of a tax-free lump sum payment and is based on a tariff of injuries to take account of the pain and suffering associated with an injury, in recognition of service personnel's sacrifice on the nation's behalf. For the more seriously injured, it also provides a guaranteed income payment. This provides a substantial tax-free income (index linked) following termination of service for the rest of their lives to compensate for their potential loss of earnings and pension.

Injured personnel who receive compensation from the no fault AFCS, are also able to bring common law claims where they feel that negligence may have occurred.

### Yemen: Military Aid

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department gives *(a)* financial and *(b)* material assistance to the armed forces in Yemen in order to combat terrorism. [315921]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 743W, to the hon. Members for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) and for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone).

The Ministry of Defence does not provide direct financial or material support to the Yemen armed forces but we will continue to offer support to the Government of Yemen and will consider any further requests for training assistance.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 88W, on departmental manpower, on what matters each of the 43 policy and senior advisers provide advice. [313041]

**Mr. Simon:** The 43 advisers are all civil servants and provide advice across a range of policies for which DCMS is responsible.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313244]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Royal Parks Agency currently have no employees in transition—i.e. officially declared surplus—and awaiting redeployment elsewhere in the civil service or leaving it through compulsory redundancy, and neither has this situation arisen in any of the last five years.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316461]

**Mr. Simon:** In the last three years (2007-08; 2008-09; 2009-to date) the Department had 61 staff members who had five or more periods of sickness absence and the duration of absence was less than five days in two or more of the periods.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1069W, on departmental training, on what date the training was provided; which organisation provided the training; and what the cost was of that training. [315781]

**Mr. Simon:** The training took place on 19 March 2008, with a follow-up session on 7 October 2008. It was provided by Angela Coles at a total cost of £1,387.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 88W, on departmental written questions, by what mechanisms his Department monitors its responses to parliamentary questions; what its target time is for responses; and how its performance against that target is measured. [316503]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department aims to answer all ordinary written parliamentary questions within five working days and give all named day parliamentary questions a substantive reply on the specified named day.

However, when this is not attainable then we endeavour to give an answer as soon after the named day as possible.

My Department has a parliamentary question database which allows us to monitor how we are working to these deadlines.

Recognising that my Department needs to improve on our figures, significant measures have been put in place across the Department ensuring that all staff are aware of the importance we must place on answering parliamentary questions in a timely manner. As such, the statistical figure for January 2010 show a marked improvement. Of 253 ordinary written parliamentary questions during this period 220 (86.95 per cent.) were answered within a working week. 25 named day parliamentary questions were also tabled with 15 (60 per cent.) given a substantive reply on the named day.

With effect from the current session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Commission, session 2008-09.

### Digital Broadcasting: Vulnerable Adults

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Digital Switchover help scheme offers to vulnerable people whose needs are not met by the standard offer of a free digital box, with particular reference to vulnerable people with sight difficulties. [316001]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* My Department is providing assistance with the digital switchover with the BBC through the Digital Switchover Help Scheme.

The scheme offers practical support to make the switch to digital on one television set to people who are aged 75 or over, disabled, visually impaired, or care home residents. The help scheme will provide equipment suited to needs, help with installation, fit a new dish or aerial where necessary and possible, give demonstrations and ensure that further help is accessible.

One button access to audio description (AD) is mandatory for equipment supplied through the help scheme standard offer. Freesat and Freeview equipment supplied by the help scheme outside of the standard offer also has AD functionality, though not necessarily with one button access.

Recent trials of a talking electronic programme guide (EPG) developed by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) appear promising, and will be kept under consideration by the Department with a view to its possible inclusion in scheme equipment.

### Football Foundation: Gloucester

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been provided by his Department through the Football Foundation in Gloucester since 1997. [316005]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The Football Foundation has advised that it has approved £1,316,871 worth of grants into projects with a total value of £2,260,390 to Gloucester since its launch in 2000.

### Government Art Collection

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has budgeted for the Government Art Collection in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [316396]

**Mr. Simon:** In 2009-10 the Government Art Collection's budget is £1,186,000. For 2010-11 the budget is still under consideration. Budgets for 2011-12 will be decided following the next spending review.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available.; [315212]

(2) how many separate bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [315216]

**Mr. Simon:** The number of trips booked, hotel night stays and total cost for hotels booked through Expotel in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010 is as follows:

| | *Number of trips* | *Number of nights stayed* | *Total cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | 2 | 2 | 257.57 |

### Licensed Premises: Opening Hours

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the change to the average daily number of opening hours of bars and public houses in England and Wales since the entry into force of the 24-hour licensing provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. [315640]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department produced an evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) in March 2008, and this is available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Licensing evaluation.pdf

The report revealed that the average closing time, across all on-licensed premises has increased by only 21 minutes since the Act came into effect. We have carried out no further evaluations on opening hours.

On 4 February 2009, I announced that we do intend to give licensing authorities power to restrict the sale and supply of alcohol between 3 am and 6 am where that is necessary for the promotion of one or more of the statutory licensing objectives. Amendments were tabled to the Crime and Security Bill on 4 February to give effect to this policy and will now be scrutinised by Parliament.

### Museums and Galleries: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 539W, on museums and galleries: educational visits, how much of the £32 million had been spent on the latest date for which figures are available. [314202]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* For the period of 2003-04 to 2009-10, the Department has invested a total of £27.21 million in the strategic commissioning programme. The remaining £4.79 million of the £32 million will be spent during 2010-11.

### Museums and Galleries: Yorkshire and Humberside

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* national and *(b)* local museums in (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) the City of York received in Government grants in each year since 1996-97. [304512]

**Margaret Hodge:** The table shows Government grants to *(a)* national and *(b)* local museums in (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) the City of York in each year since 1996-97.

The funding provided includes grant in aid allocated to national museums and galleries by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); grants given since 2002-03 by the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund (of which 50 per cent. is given by DCMS and 50 per cent. by the Wolfson Foundation); and funding provided by DCMS to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) for both the Renaissance in the Regions programme for regional museums (from 2002-03) and the Designation Challenge Fund (from 2001). The core funding of local authority museums is a matter for the 22 county, district and unitary councils in Yorkshire and the Humber. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Statistical Information Service surveys local authority museums and the findings are available in its publication 'Culture, Sport and Recreation'.

*£000*

| | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | *City of York* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Government grants to national museums*[1] | *Government grants to local museums*[2] | *Government grants to national museums*[3] | *Government grants to local museums*[4] |
| 1996-97 | 9.723 | — | — | — |
| 1997-98 | 17.326 | — | 9.126 | — |
| 1998-99 | 10.339 | — | 3.647 | — |
| 1999-2000 | 13.242 | — | 3.758 | — |
| 2000-01 | 14.034 | — | 3.932 | — |
| 2001-02 | 15.668 | 0.578 | 4.708 | 0.165 |
| 2002-03 | 18.334 | 1.319 | 5.664 | 0.421 |
| 2003-04 | 19.976 | 0.826 | 6.759 | 0.100 |
| 2004-05 | 20.783 | 1.475 | 6.967 | 0.385 |
| 2005-06 | 20.969 | 1.329 | 6.598 | 0.209 |
| 2006-07 | 23.024 | 2.403 | 7.863 | 0.426 |
| 2007-08 | 23.237 | 3.647 | 7.605 | 0.551 |
| 2008-09 | 24.573 | 3.400 | 7.906 | 1.225 |
| 2009-10 | 24.918 | 3.956 | 7.966 | 0.539 |

[1] The Government provide grant in aid to the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI), which allocates funding to its branch museums in Bradford (National Media Museum) and York (National Railway Museum). Individual allocations to these branches for the year 1996-97 are not available. The Government have provided grant funding to the National Coal Mining Museum of England through NMSI since 1999-2000. The figures provide the total allocation for the Royal Armouries, which includes its Leeds, Fort Nelson and Tower of London branches and grants from the DCMS/Wolfson Fund. Royal Armouries in Leeds is the headquarters. All national museums sponsored by DCMS are eligible to apply to the DCMS/Wolfson Fund.

[2] Figures comprise the grants made by the DCMS/Wolfson Fund to the following eligible institutions: Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Cliffe Castle Museum, Harewood House, Wilberforce House Museum, Leeds City Art Gallery, Temple Newsam House, Weston Park Museum, Graves Art Gallery, the Millennium Gallery in Sheffield, York Castle Museum and the Yorkshire Museum; Government funding provided to Yorkshire Hub museums through Renaissance in the Regions (Bradford Museums Service, Hull Museums Service, Leeds Museums and Galleries, Museums Sheffield and York Museums Trust), and through the Designation Challenge Fund to Harewood House Trust, Kingston upon Hull City Museums and Art Galleries, Leeds Museums and Galleries, Sheffield Galleries & Museums Trust and York Museums Trust. Figures also include the operational costs of the Yorkshire Hub and Museum Development Yorkshire. The proportion of this funding applied to the City of York is not available.

[3] Government grant in aid provided through the NMSI to the National Railway Museum, and grants made to the Museum by the DCMS/Wolfson Fund.

[4] Figures comprise the grants made by the DCMS/Wolfson Fund to York Castle Museum and the Yorkshire Museum, and Government funding provided to York Museums Trust through Renaissance in the Regions and the Designation Challenge Fund.

## National Lottery: Sports

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 10-11W, on parliamentary questions, what the reason was for the time taken to reply in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2010. [316385]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department's decision, to respond to questions on non-departmental public bodies' (NDPBs) operational issues by asking the chief executive to write directly, has been based on the overall principles of providing responses to members within the set timescale across the full range of the Department's NDPBs. This approach also makes clearer the arm's length relationship.

## Sports: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to increase opportunities for people aged from *(a)* seven to 12 and *(b)* 13 to 18 years old in Coventry to play sport. [315941]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested regarding Coventry specifically is not held by the Department centrally, however the Youth Sport Trust would be able to supply a response. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Youth Sport Trust to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the provision of community sport facilities in Coventry. [315942]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department has allocated Sport England over £ 480 million of Exchequer funding in the last five years, to invest in community sport both through national governing bodies and more specific local initiatives.

In addition, in 2009-10, the Department has allocated Sport England £135 million of Exchequer funding. Sport England has targets to get one million people doing more sport by 2012-13, and to make a major contribution to the delivery of the five-hour sports offer for children and young people. Coventry will benefit, alongside every area of England, from Exchequer and lottery investment by Sport England in 2010 in support of these targets.

The information requested regarding Coventry specifically is not held by the Department centrally, however Sport England would be able to supply a response. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Sport England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Sports: Television

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the market value of the events recommended for listing in the David Davies Review of Listed Events. [316383]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The David Davies Review of Listed Events identified approximate market values for some of the events recommended for listing. However, the responses received to the Government's statutory consultation will enable us to make a fuller assessment of the market value for all of these events.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has commissioned an economic impact assessment following the publication of the David Davies Review of Listed Events. [316384]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The evidence received in response to the Government's current statutory consultation on Free-to-Air Listed Events will form the basis of an economic impact assessment.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314521]

**Mr. Simon:** DCMS takes stress management of its employees seriously in the Department and we have guidance on managing and recognising stress for managers and staff on our intranet site. A copy of our policy will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Swimming: Concessions

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 540W, on swimming, how much funding has been allocated for provision of the free swimming lessons. [316534]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) has budgeted £2.45 million for local authorities to apply for funding for the provision of free swimming lessons. This forms part of a package of funding DCMS has provided to the ASA to administer free swimming lessons and recruit a national network of swimming experts who are working with participating councils to promote interest in swimming and increase participation.

Councils are being encouraged by their county swimming co-ordinators to apply for more funding to provide additional free swimming lessons.

### Theatre: Young People

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 888W, on theatre: young people, how much was spent on the provision of the 121,742 tickets; how much funding for the project remains; and when he expects the remainder to be spent. [316533]

**Margaret Hodge:** My Department provided Arts Council England £2,500,000 of funding to administer this two-year scheme in 2009-10.

£2,400,000 of this money has been allocated directly to the theatres who will be delivering the scheme, with the final £100,000 being spent on marketing. Funding arrangements have been agreed with each participating venue.

Arts Council England to date has awarded theatres £1,400,000 of their allocation. A further £960,000 will be released from July 2010 for completion of the project.

A further £100,000 has been committed to an evaluation of the scheme.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average distance was of *(a)* all flights leaving UK airports and *(b)* all flights leaving UK airports except domestic lifeline flights in each of the last three years. [315795]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The following table shows the average distance travelled by flights departing UK airports in each of the last three years.

*Average distance*

*km*

| | *All flight departures* | *All flight departures except lifeline flights* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 1,391 | 1,398 |
| 2007 | 1,413 | 1,420 |
| 2008 | 1,428 | 1,426 |

*Notes:*

1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Total flight departures are based on data from 58 reporting UK airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Island airports. Lifeline flights are based on flight information from 10 of these UK airports which report to the CAA.
3. Lifeline flights are those routes with Public Service Obligations (PSOs) imposed by the UK published by the Civil Aviation Authority in "CAP 775: Air Services at UK Regional Airports, An Update on Developments".

*Source:*

Based on data supplied to DFT by the Civil Aviation Authority

### Aviation: Fuels

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 25W, on aviation: fuels, if he will give *(a)* date and *(b)* location and altitude in respect of each of the 18 fuel-jettisoning incidents. [316527]

**Paul Clark:** The incidents which resulted in fuel jettisoning were reported to the Civil Aviation Authority in accordance with the mandatory occurrence reporting requirements of the Air Navigation Order. Fuel jettisoning is not itself a reportable occurrence. The location and altitude of the fuel jettisoning are not recorded by the CAA as they are not relevant to the safety objectives of occurrence reporting. The incidents occurred on the following dates:

21 November 2008
21 November 2008
23 November 2008
3 December 2008
13 December 2008
19 December 2008
20 December 2008
22 December 2008

22 March 2009
13 April 2009
15 April 2009
14 May 2009
3 June 2009
4 June 2009
25 June 2009
12 July 2009
13 August 2009
4 September 2009.

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313988]

**Chris Mole:** Total expenditure by the central Department and its agencies on consultants in each financial year since it was formed in May 2002 is shown in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DfT Central | 57.2 | 58.5 | 65.2 | 64.0 | 53.6 | 51.0 | 56.2 |
| Highways Agency | 157.5 | 169.7 | 115.0 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 4.0 | 3.4 | 4.8 | 1.9 | 18.0 | 6.4 | 12.9 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 4.2 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 5.1 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 1.8 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency[1] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Total | 227.5 | 239.5 | 193.3 | 72.1 | 82.9 | 68.3 | 77.5 |

[1] Joined DfT from 2005-06.

The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 which led to some changes in the classification of expenditure included as consultancy from that time.

Expenditure figures from 2005-06 exclude central Department and Highways Agency spend on technical transport-related consultancy. Expenditure by the Highways Agency on engineering consultancy is scored as outsourced procurement of specialist services. From 2008-09 there has been a reclassification of the treatment of work undertaken by DVLA's PACT (Partners Achieving Change Together) partners: This is reflected in the figures in the table for 2007-08 and 2008-09 and is consistent with the Agency Annual Accounts for 2008-09.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 342-43W, on departmental correspondence, what criteria are used to decide *(a)* whether (i) an electronic document and (ii) other information forms part of the official record keeping system and *(b)* the agreed retention period of an approved file plan file. [315176]

**Chris Mole:** Departmental guidance is used to determine what documents and other items, regardless of format, should be kept on the relevant approved file plan as part of the official record. Consideration is given to whether the information is business critical, should form part of the corporate memory and has potential value as a record to explain and justify the decisions and policy development.

Retention periods for approved file plans, whether electronic or paper, are set using departmental guidelines which are in line with the recommended retention periods set by the National Archives. Generally these vary between one and 30 years.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 342-43W, on departmental correspondence, what criteria are used to decide whether a document is *(a)* judged to be a business critical paper, *(b)* marked with security classification and *(c)* marked with a privacy classification; and for what reasons such documents are stored on registered paper files. [315177]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport's criteria for deciding whether a document is business critical is based on our need to meet our legal obligations, and to show accountability and effective administration.

Document security and privacy classification markings are determined by reference to guidance which looks at the practical consequences that are likely to result from unauthorised access or compromise of that information.

Departmental policy requires that all documents with a security marking of Confidential and above must only be stored on registered paper files. Other business critical documents, including restricted documents and personnel files, are sometimes kept as both paper and electronic files depending on their nature and format.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 342-43W, on departmental correspondence, what the reasons are for the length of the three-month retention period for daily back-ups of the Department's electronic communications servers. [315178]

**Chris Mole:** The three-month retention period for back-up of the departmental servers strikes an appropriate balance between ensuring business continuity and having an acceptable operational overhead, thereby providing the ability to recover the system and data without having to hold and maintain a disproportionately large back-up store.

### East Coast Main Line: Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Tom Harris:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether *(a)* staff employed to provide catering facilities and *(b)* other staff on East Coast trains will have their employment conditions protected under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulation in the event of an alternative train operating company providing east coast main line services from Glasgow from May 2011. [315188]

**Chris Mole:** Management of any staff transfers between train operators is a matter for those train operators.

### East Coast Main Line: Rolling Stock

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the refurbishment of the existing rolling stock on the east coast main line; and how many additional years of service he estimates would be delivered by such refurbished rolling stock. [314343]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has made an assessment of the likely cost of refurbishment of both the HST—high-speed train—and 225 trains on the east coast main line. A longer life extension would require more work, and so different estimates have been prepared according to the period of life extension. To release these estimates now would compromise the Department's commercial position in the negotiations with the preferred bidder Agility Trains.

### First Capital Connect: Franchises

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what provisions in the franchise agreement with First Capital Connect govern the termination of the franchise in respect of persistent service failure through industrial action. [314241]

**Chris Mole:** A persistent service failure could push the franchisee's performance below the Default Performance Level. Initially, the occurrence of an Event of Default would be subject to remedial action under the terms of the franchise agreement. However, where that Event of Default is continuing and unremedied, and the Secretary of State considers that it is material, the Secretary of State may terminate the agreement.

### Highlands and Islands Airports

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many flights departed from *(a)* Barra, *(b)* Benbecula, *(c)* Campbeltown, *(d)* Inverness, *(e)* Islay, *(f)* Kirkwall, *(g)* Stornoway, *(h)* Sumburgh, *(i)* Tiree and *(j)* Wick airports in each of the last three years, broken down by aircraft type. [316389]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Kemble-Swindon Railway Line

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the latest date is that a decision can be taken in respect of the re-doubling of the Swindon to Kemble railway line before the expiry of the regional funding allocation. [315736]

**Chris Mole:** Although I would like to see an early decision taken regarding this enhancement, it depends upon a successful outcome of negotiations with Network Rail. Funding is available from the commencement of financial year 2010-11 so a conclusion to the present dialogue by summer this year is desirable.

### M25

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the distance to the next clockwise M25/A282 junction is from junctions *(a)* 29, *(b)* 30, *(c)* 31, *(d)* 1a, *(e)* 1b and *(f)* 2. [315413]

**Chris Mole:** The distances between the clockwise M25/A282 junctions are as follows:

| *From junction:* | *Miles* |
|---|---|
| 29 to 30 | 5.5 |
| 30 to 31 | 1.2 |
| 31 to 1a | 2.5 |
| 1a to 1b | 1.3 |
| 1b to 2 | 0.8 |

### Motor Sports

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to introduce legislative proposals to provide for the transfer of responsibilities for authorising routes for UK rallies from the Royal Automobile Club to the Motor Sports Association. [315997]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The Department for Transport will be writing to stakeholders later this month, with a copy of the draft regulations and to explain how we intend to proceed. We are aiming to complete the process in the spring.

### Northern Rail

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the effectiveness of the Serco-Northern Rail passenger charter; and if he will make a statement. [315534]

**Chris Mole:** Northern Rail's passengers' charter is similar to those of many other franchised train-operating companies. Average performance over the previous 12 months is used to determine whether compensation should be paid to season ticket holders.

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to assess the performance of the Serco-Northern Rail franchise. [315535]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport continually monitors many aspects of performance for all of the franchised train operators, including Northern Rail. These include train punctuality and cancellations, train capacity provided, passenger survey results, safety, and financial performance.

The Department monitors actual performance against targets and historic records to identify any trends. The franchise agreements, including Northern Rail's can be found on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has made a decision on the proposed extension to the Serco-Northern Rail franchise. [315536]

**Chris Mole:** The Northern franchise is currently in its contractual 'Continuation Review Period'. During this time operational performance is monitored against contractual targets. Successful delivery during this period may result in the franchise continuing until 15 September 2013.

The Continuation Review Period ends on 2 May 2010. An announcement regarding the extension of the franchise will be made in due course after this date.

### Railway Stations: Antisocial Behaviour

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the number of ultrasonic Mosquito devices used at railway stations; what recent representations he has received on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [316228]

**Chris Mole:** I understand that devices of this sort have been used at a limited number of stations. This is, however, a matter for station operators rather than the Department for Transport. We have therefore made no estimate of the number currently in use and I am not aware of any representations to the Department on the subject.

### Roads: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport from what budgets the cost of corrective work to the access route from Station road to the Fallowfield Loop in Reddish will be met. [315415]

**Mr. Khan:** At this point in time, no budget has been identified to cover the cost of the corrective work to the access route from Station road to the Fallowfield Loop in Reddish.

Manchester city council, Stockport metropolitan borough council, Greater Manchester police and Sustrans are due to meet shortly to explore funding options.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which organisation is responsible for the design of the access route from Station road to the Fallowfield Loop in Reddish. [315416]

**Mr. Khan:** Sustrans was the organisation responsible for the design and construction of the access route from Station road to the Fallowfield Loop in Reddish.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to reduce the necessity for road repairs as a result of poor work by the statutory undertakers. [315973]

**Mr. Khan:** Our Street Works Summit Report and Action Plan, published on 21 December 2009, set out a number of proposed actions to tackle the unacceptable disruption caused by street works.

In line with the action plan, the Department for Transport will shortly be publishing a revised Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways, setting out improved standards for street works reinstatements. The Department will also shortly be consulting on a revised code of practice and regulations on inspections, to ensure that poorly performing undertakers are subject to a more rigorous inspection regime.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of expenditure by his Department on road repairs as a result of recent severe weather conditions; and what percentage of the total budget for 2010 this represents. [315974]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 179W.

### Southeastern

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on re-advertising the Southeastern trains franchise. [316201]

**Chris Mole:** There have been no such discussions. The Southeastern franchise began in April 2006 and is due to end in April 2014. The period from April 2012 to April 2014 is dependant on Southeastern achieving the required performance in the period between December 2009 and December 2010.

### Southeastern: Snow and Ice

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans there are to compensate Southeastern trains commuters adversely affected by the number of late trains running in January. [316200]

**Chris Mole:** Customers who were inconvenienced by the adverse weather in January will be compensated in accordance with the National Rail Conditions of Carriage and Southeastern's own published passenger charter.

Additionally, in cases where customers have been particularly affected, Southeastern is considering compensation claims on a case-by-case basis.

### Stonehouse Bristol Road Station

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department is responsible for the site at the Old Bristol Road railway station at Stonehouse, Gloucestershire; and what recent representations he has received on the re-opening of that station. [315889]

**Chris Mole:** The site of the former station buildings and former goods yard at the Old Bristol Road railway station is owned by Dunmore Developments Ltd. We are not aware of any recent representations to re-open the station.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314525]

**Chris Mole:** The current advice issued to staff in the Department for Transport and its agencies on stress recognition and management has been placed in the Library. It should be noted that all advice is regularly reviewed and could be subject to change.

### Thameslink Railway Line

**Anne Main:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the oral answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 47-8WH, for what reasons completion of key output 2 of the Thameslink programme has been delayed until December 2016. [316381]

**Chris Mole:** The Government remain committed to investing at least £5.5 billion to modernise one of Britain's busiest rail routes to deliver a dramatic increase in capacity, with longer trains running 24 times an hour through central London, meaning more seats and improved reliability for passengers.

After further detailed planning, Network Rail has revised the infrastructure work planned at London Bridge for a solution that improves access through the station, reduces disruption to passengers during the construction phase and provides a better value for money solution. As such the Thameslink programme outputs will be delivered from 2016.

### Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315638]

**Mr. Khan:** The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from the Department for transport investment in Kent, within which transport authority South Thanet falls, has risen more than fourfold over the last decade.

Investment in Kent county council's local transport plan has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2004 and 2008, bus patronage per head of population increased by 19 per cent., and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 36 per cent. in the period 2001-07.

In 2003, Kent county council was awarded £447,000 from the Department's 'Urban Bus Challenge' fund to develop the 'Thanet Loop' bus service. The Thanet Loop has provided a simplified, high-frequency network of services linking Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate with the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital and the Westwood Cross shopping centre. The service achieved a 20 per cent. increase in patronage in its first year of operation.

In 2005, the county council submitted a successful bid to the Department for 'Kickstart' revenue funding of the 'Dover and Deal Diamond' bus route. The £371,000 award facilitated the implementation of a frequent and fully accessible service, providing Sandwich, Deal, Dover and the Kent coalfield regeneration area with enhanced public transport links to Canterbury, as well as improved bus stop infrastructure funded by the county council.

It was announced in August 2009 that the Department had approved Kent County council's major scheme business case for the construction of the £87 million East Kent Access Road. The project will provide high quality road links between areas of deprivation in Thanet and Dover and the major employment sites at the port of Dover, the channel tunnel, and the Eurokent business park in Ramsgate. It is anticipated that construction of the new road will be completed in autumn 2012.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what costs have been incurred by the Rural Payments Agency for claims processed under schemes they administer in each year since 2008. [316523]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The net running costs of the Rural Payments Agency for 2008-09 covering the administration of approximately 60 schemes delivered by the agency and 30 schemes delivered by other organisations amounted to £240,792,000. This is as reported in the agency annual report and accounts.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single payment scheme claims made in 2009 remain outstanding. [316524]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** As at 31 January 2010, out of the total SPS claimant population of 107,500, approximately 12,800 have not received a payment because their claim is still undergoing the necessary validation checks.

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315302]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Blaydon, which falls under the Gateshead council, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Gateshead is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected Department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its Public Service Agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 Report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Blaydon, the Government Office for the North East is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

### Care Farms

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into the number, uses and viability of care farms in England. [314290]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Care farming is a general term for the therapeutic use of farming practices, although there is no standard model in the UK. Care farms play an important role in offering a learning or therapeutic environment for a range of groups, such as the mentally ill, ex offenders and disaffected young people.

The services of care farms will generally be commissioned by agencies such as NHS trusts, local authorities or probation services.

DEFRA has not commissioned any research into the number, uses and viability of care farms in England, however they are growing in number. Some of the organisations who have already benefited from their valuable services are best placed to assess their use and viability based on experience to date.

### Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Cleethorpes constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [315343]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Cleethorpes, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Cleethorpes is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its public service agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 Report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets have been set for local authorities in relation to collection of *(a)* residual and *(b)* recyclable household waste; and which such targets are based on policies of (i) his Department and (ii) the European Commission. [314946]

**Dan Norris:** Under the Local Authority Performance Framework each local authority is free to choose 35 from the full list of 198 National Indicators to prioritise as part of their Local Area Agreement and 85 per cent. of authorities have chosen at least one waste management target as a local priority.

The level of their ambition in setting individual targets is agreed in negotiation between the local authority and the relevant Government office for the region. Furthermore the policies and practices required for those targets to be met are a matter for individual local authorities to determine.

Local authority efforts to improve their performance contribute towards the national targets for recycling and waste reduction that were set in the Waste Strategy for England 2007, based on DEFRA's policies.

For the reporting year 2009-10, the following targets have been included in Local Area Agreements:

*NI 191—Residual household waste per household*

| *Authority* | *Target (kg per household)* |
|---|---|
| Barnet LB | 662 |
| Camden LB | 483 |
| Enfield LB | 718 |
| Hackney LB | 595 |
| Havering LB | 809 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames LB | 645 |
| Lewisham LB | 754 |
| Merton LB | 649 |
| Richmond upon Thames LB | 582 |
| Manchester MD | 636 |
| Rochdale MD | 480 |
| Wigan MD | 791 |
| Birmingham MD | 737 |
| Coventry MD | 770 |
| Walsall MD | 739 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 840 |
| York UA | 617 |
| Rutland UA | 758 |
| Herefordshire UA | 759 |
| Telford and Wrekin UA | 829 |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 569 |
| Isles of Scilly | 1,448 |
| Medway Towns UA | 818 |
| West Berkshire UA | 850 |
| Southampton UA | 742 |
| Isle of Wight UA | 847 |
| Cumbria CC | 643 |
| Essex CC | 685 |
| Gloucestershire CC | 618 |
| Kent CC | 733 |
| Oxfordshire CC | 723 |
| Somerset CC | 555 |
| Staffordshire CC | 775 |
| Warwickshire CC | 702 |

*NI 192—Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting*

| *Local authority* | *Target (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham LB | 27 |
| Bexley LB | 45 |
| Brent LB | 30 |
| Croydon LB | 37 |
| Ealing LB | 38 |
| Greenwich LB | 45.5 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham LB | 29 |
| Haringey LB | 32 |
| Harrow LB | 47 |
| Havering LB | 30 |
| Hillingdon LB | 40 |
| Hounslow LB | 30 |
| Kensington and Chelsea LB | 30.7 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames LB | 40 |
| Newham LB | 22 |
| Redbridge LB | 27.5 |
| Southwark LB | 24.2 |
| Tower Hamlets LB | 26 |
| Waltham Forest LB | 36 |
| Wandsworth LB | 27.2 |
| Westminster LB | 28 |
| Bury MD | 30 |
| Manchester MD | 30 |
| Oldham MD | 30 |
| Stockport MD | 37 |
| Tameside MD | 35 |
| Knowsley MD | 30 |
| Liverpool MD | 30 |
| St. Helens MD | 32 |
| Wirral MD | 35.5 |
| Doncaster MD | 40 |
| Gateshead MD | 30 |
| North Tyneside MD | 31.06 |
| South Tyneside MD | 30 |
| Sunderland MD | 30 |
| Dudley MD | 32 |
| Sandwell MD | 28.01 |
| Wolverhampton MD | 33 |
| Bradford MD | 31 |
| Kirklees MD | 29.45 |
| Leeds MD | 33.94 |
| Wakefield MD | 36 |
| Hartlepool UA | 39 |
| Darlington UA | 40 |
| Halton UA | 31 |
| Warrington UA | 40 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 40 |
| Blackpool UA | 40 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 36.08 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 33 |
| Bristol UA | 38 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 46 |
| Plymouth UA | 33 |
| Torbay UA | 31 |
| West Berkshire UA | 38 |
| Slough UA | 28 |
| East Sussex CC | 33 |
| Essex CC | 41.25 |
| Gloucestershire CC | 48 |
| Lancashire CC | 43 |
| Leicestershire CC | 48.6 |
| North Yorkshire CC | 42 |
| Nottinghamshire CC | 42.4 |
| Oxfordshire CC | 42 |
| Surrey CC | 38 |

## Fisheries: Western Sahara

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what programmes are taking place in Western Sahara under the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement; whether these programmes are in accordance with the wishes of the Saharawis; and how the Saharawi have been consulted in relation to those programmes. [315750]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Information on the programmes taking place in Western Sahara is not readily available as analysis at this geographical level is not always possible from the data supplied by Morocco to the EU. However, at the behest of the UK, the Commission has asked

Morocco what programmes operate in this area and they have confirmed that money is spent on training programmes in Western Sahara. No information is available on whether or not the Saharawi have been consulted as this is an internal matter for the Moroccan Government.

### Fly-tipping

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each local authority in the east of England in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of steps taken in response to such incidents; [316549]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for offences of fly-tipping in each local authority area in the last 12 months. [316553]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA publishes the number of incidents of fly-tipping and the estimated cost of clearance as reported by local authorities to the Flycapture system with national, regional and local breakdowns on its website annually. Data for 2008-09 are the latest to be released under the official statistics protocols and can be found on the DEFRA website at the following address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Data for 2009-10 are due to be published later this year.

### Food: Supermarkets

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department provides to supermarkets on how to use out of date food which is still safe to eat. [315692]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government do not currently provide specific guidance to supermarkets on what to do with "out of date" food which is still safe to eat. This would include food past its "best before" date, which indicates the period in which food is of optimum quality, but after which is still perfectly edible. It would also include food past its "display until" date, as these are used for stock control, and although retailers may remove food from sale once the "display until" date has passed, it has no bearing on food safety or quality. "Use by", however, is mandatory for food that will, after that date, become unsafe to eat and should be thrown away.

Where it is of sufficient quality, consuming food that has passed its "best before" or "display until" (but not past its "use by") date is, environmentally, a much better option than treating it using even the most advanced technologies. Organisations such as FareShare collect such good quality surplus food and redistribute it to vulnerable people in the community. Many supermarkets already support FareShare, and the Secretary of State has recently written to supermarket CEOs to ask them to think about how this support can be increased further still.

The Government are also collaborating with WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme), the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the food industry to improve the clarity and consistency of food date marks and storage and usage guidance. The aim of this project is to improve date labelling practice and consumer understanding, thus reducing food waste while increasing understanding of food safety.

### Forestry

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of previously forested land which has been permanently cleared in each of the last 10 years; and how much previously unforested land was planted for forestry in each such year. [316008]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The area of deforestation in England is not recorded centrally. However, an estimate is made for reporting emissions or removals due to afforestation, reforestation and deforestation under article 3.3 of the Kyoto protocol. The area of deforestation from 1999 to 2008 is given in the following table:

*Area of deforestation*

| | *Hectares (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 805 |
| 2000 | 1,024 |
| 2001 | 1,245 |
| 2002 | 1,076 |
| 2003 | 1,051 |
| 2004 | 959 |
| 2005 | 926 |
| 2006 | 810 |
| 2007 | 745 |
| 2008 | 670 |

The area of new woodland planting is reported annually by the Forestry Commission. The Figures for 2000 to 2009 are given in the following table:

*New woodland creation*

| *Year ending 31 March* | *Hectares (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 5.9 |
| 2001 | 5.9 |
| 2002 | 5.4 |
| 2003 | 5.9 |
| 2004 | 4.6 |
| 2005 | 5.3 |
| 2006 | 3.7 |
| 2007 | 3.2 |
| 2008 | 2.6 |
| 2009 | 2.1 |

### Genetically Modified Organisms

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to assess the environmental impact of genetically modified crops in England; which research projects have been commissioned or completed since the conclusion of the Government-funded farm-scale evaluations that are designed to repeat or build on the research on the environmental impacts of those trials; and what scientific conclusions were reached; [316123]

(2) if he will assess the implications for his Department's policies on genetically modified foods of the July 2009 editorial in Scientific American which asserts that it is impossible to verify that genetically modified crops perform as advertised because agritech companies have given themselves veto power over the work of independent researchers. [316124]

**Dan Norris:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 574W.

### Hunting Act 2004

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* police forces on the enforcement of provisions of the Hunting Act 2004. [315962]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA Ministers have had no recent discussions with the Home Secretary or with police forces on the enforcement of the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004. Enforcement of the Hunting Act is a matter for the Home Office.

### International Whaling Commission

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on negotiations on the reform of the International Whaling Commission. [315665]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I discussed whaling and the reform of the IWC with the hon. Peter Garrett MP, Australian Minister for the Environment in June last year. In the same month I also met with the Icelandic Fisheries Minister where I called upon Iceland to respect the moratorium and halt commercial whaling operations.

At the International Whaling Commission's last annual meeting during which negotiations on the reform process continued, I met with a number of my international counterparts, including the Minister from Portugal.

More recently, I wrote to Japan's Environment and Fisheries Minister in October 2009 expressing our concern for their continued whaling and urging the Japanese Government to review its whaling policy.

### Oils: Waste Disposal

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance has been issued to local authorities on the prevention of *(a)* illegal dumping and *(b)* other inappropriate methods of disposing of waste oils. [315420]

**Dan Norris:** The Environment Agency and local authorities are the enforcement bodies in England for waste crime. DEFRA is working closely with these bodies to develop better prevention, detection and prosecution of illegal dumping offences.

In particular, DEFRA is:

Funding Keep Britain Tidy to provide local authorities with support and advice on their fly-tipping prevention strategies, including training workshops for individual local authorities. Over 70 authorities will have benefited from this training programme by the end of the financial year. Keep Britain Tidy has also provided all local authorities in England with a Knowledge Bank of best practice information and case studies, backed up with anti fly-tipping campaigning material.

Funding the Environment Agency's Waste Crime Innovation Programme which includes pilot work on new and innovative techniques for tackling fly-tipping, as well as a Landowner Partnership Programme, working with landowner organisations to tackle fly-tipping on private land.

Shortly to bring in new powers allowing local authorities and the Environment Agency to seize vehicles suspected of involvement in fly-tipping more easily.

Working to strengthen the waste carrier registration system and promote—through more user-friendly guidance—the waste duty of care so that the law is better understood and easier for authorities to enforce.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many small waste oil burners were authorised for use in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [315421]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the environmental effects of the use of small waste oil burners to dispose of waste oils. [315422]

**Dan Norris:** Small waste oil burners which operate at below 0.4 MW net rated thermal input are regulated by local authorities under the local air pollution control system. Statistical data concerning all such regulation by local authorities are contained in annual reports available on the DEFRA website.

The number of small waste oil burners holding a permit at the end of financial years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 are respectively 1,491, 1,491, and 1,595.

Guidance on standards of air pollution control for small waste oil burners which operate at below 0.4 MW was revised in 2004 and is published on the DEFRA website.

The guidance, which identifies what is considered to represent the best available techniques for minimising air emissions for the sector generally, was produced through a review by the local authority unit of the Environment Agency, in consultation with stakeholders. The standards in the guidance note apply where such burners use only waste oil which arises from the premises where they are located. If waste oil is brought in from elsewhere, the more stringent standards in the guidance on combustion of fuel manufactured from or comprised of solid waste in appliances between 0.4 and 3 MW is specified. Both these guidance notes will be re-examined as part of the three-year programme of reviewing all such guidance notes, which began in 2009.

### Poultry: Sales

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of turkeys sold in each of the last five years. [316522]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have made no such estimate.

### Rural Development Programme

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Natural England has spent on the administration of agri-environment schemes under the Rural Development Programme for England in each year of the programme; and how many *(a)* administration and *(b)* operational staff it employed on the administration of such schemes in each such year. [315005]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Natural England was allocated £13,600,000 in 2008-09 to cover its direct costs associated with delivering the Rural Development Programme for

England (RDPE). In addition to this, £22,400,000 was allocated to Natural England to cover the costs of DEFRA's Genesis IT system, which is the IT system used to manage and administer the Rural Development Programme for England. These running cost includes depreciation, cost of capital and system support.

In 2009-10 these figures equated to £14,600,000 for direct costs and £23,700,000 for DEFRA Genesis IT costs.

The number of staff employed on RDPE administration-related tasks is 334 and on operational activity is 128. Staff numbers have remained the same in 2008-09 and 2009-10. However, Natural England has already realised productivity gains of over 20 per cent. due to improvements in processes and the significant increase in volume of agreements that these staff are handling.

### Sewers: Private Sector

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on plans for the transfer of private drains to water companies for 2011. [315757]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA regularly receives representations from a range of interested parties, including water and sewerage companies, drainage contractors and private sewer owners, about the proposed transfer of private sewers to the water and sewerage companies in England and Wales.

On 15 December 2008, the Government announced that the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains linked to the public sewerage system to water company ownership would take place from 2011. Transfer is the only comprehensive solution to the range of problems presented by private sewers.

I anticipate consulting in the next few months on the content of regulations to effect transfer, prior to them being presented to Parliament for approval.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Complaints: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made against *(a)* Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* the Child Support Agency and *(c)* the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service by residents of the London borough of Bexley in the last five years. [314292]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Advertising

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advertising campaigns her Department has been responsible for in each of the last three years; which campaigns have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10 to date; and what the cost of each such campaign has been [312056]

**Jim Knight:** These are the costs (in £ million) of the advertising campaigns for which the Department has been responsible in the last three years. Generally speaking, those numbers show the cost of media space used for each campaign. All media buying is done through the COI, who show an average of a 49 per cent. saving over rate-card media costs.

All our campaigns are evaluated to ensure that they support either the Department's short-term response to the recession, or fit into its long-term strategic objectives, enabling us to inform our core customer groups or encourage behaviour change as effectively as possible.

*£ million*

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Backing Young Britain (employer campaign) | — | — | [1]0.10 |
| Employability (diverse workforce campaign) | [2]2.20 | — | — |
| Marketing JCP services to employers | — | 0.73 | — |
| Stimulating sign-up to Local Employment Partnerships | 0.18 | 0.19 | — |
| Find Your Way Back To Work (customer help during the recession) | 3.10 | 2.50 | 0.50 |
| Winter Fuel Eligibility | 0.31 | 0.27 | 0.22 |
| Christmas Bonus Eligibility | — | 0.08 | — |
| Planning and Saving for Later Life (customer campaign) | — | — | 2.30 |
| Pension Credit eligibility | 0.92 | 0.45 | 0.87 |
| Fraud and Error | 5.30 | 3.70 | 3.90 |
| Directgov—citizen usage and awareness drive[3] | — | 5.30 | 2.05 |

[1] Spend so far

[2] Over 2007-09

[3] Campaigns run by Directgov. These figures include all the costs associated with the campaigns (including both production and media space buying). Linked to a previous response on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1031-2W (UIN 310280).

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315139]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions became a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and set a target to pay 90 per cent. of correct invoices within 10 days of receipt. This target applies to all invoices paid by the Department and its agencies which are covered by a single finance system. The target has been met consistently since the signing of the code. In March 2009 the figure for all creditors was 92 per cent. rising to 97 per cent. in December 2009. Separate figures for small and medium-sized enterprises are not collected and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Buildings

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by her Department. [310517]

**Jim Knight:** DWP does not own any property. In 1998 and further in 2003, the Department outsourced its estate through a PFI Contract known as "PRIME" returning exchequer receipts of £250 million in 1998 and £100 million in 2003.

*A—Office space owned by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)*

| | *Square metres/£ million* |
|---|---|
| *Area* | |
| (i) Vacant office space (square metres) | 0 |
| (ii) Other occupied office space (square metres) | 0 |
| *Estimated value* | |
| (i) Vacant office space (£ million) | n/a |
| (ii) Other occupied office space (£ million) | n/a |

n/a = Not applicable

*B—Office space rented by DWP*

| | *Square metres/£ million* |
|---|---|
| *Area* | |
| (i) Vacant office space (square metres) | 6,747 |
| (ii) Other occupied office space (square metres) | 1,529,589 |
| *Estimated value* | |
| (i) Vacant office space (£ million) | 1.1 |
| (ii) Other occupied office space (£ million) | 405.8 |

Since the Department was formed, we have continued to make significant progress with our estate strategy. By the end of 2011, we expect to have reduced our estate by around 28 per cent. since the Department was formed, vacating 800 buildings and substantially improving the quality of most buildings that have been retained.

As the business strategies involve the relocation of staff it is inevitable that this will not align perfectly with strategic property opportunities. Consequently there will be small, localised 'pockets' of temporarily vacant space remaining where return to our PFI supplier is not immediately financially viable or where there is no demand from other Government Departments. For DWP this vacant space represents less than 0.3 m per cent. of the overall annual cost of DWP office accommodation.

## Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much consultants employed by her Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313996]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Total consultancy spend since 1 April 2003 is provided as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Spend (£ million including VAT)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 306.72 |
| 2004-05 | 168.37 |
| 2005-06 | 130.29 |
| 2006-07 | 162.62 |
| 2007-08 | 76.48 |
| 2008-09 | 72.78 |

Information prior to this date is not available.

Reimbursable expenses are not captured separately and are included in the figures set out above.

## Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ipods have been bought by her Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311912]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. However, DWP does not have any contractual mechanisms in place for the procurement of ipods or any MP3 device and it is highly unlikely that, under departmental financial policy, such expenditure could be justified.

## Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315701]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is not collated centrally by DWP and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on the advertising campaign to position Directgov as the nation's website; how much of this expenditure has been allocated for payments to (i) Miles Calcraft Briginshaw Duffy and (ii) celebrities appearing in the campaign. [313695]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Directgov has the potential to enable Government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels. For those savings to be realised, it is vital that the public are aware of and trust Directgov as the Government's official website. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness so that Directgov is the first site people think of for Government information, and one which they both trust and recommend to others. Early results have shown the campaign has been a success with a record number of 614,000 visits on the first day of the campaign which was then followed by another 663,000 the next Monday. During the period of the campaign to date, year on year visits to the Directgov homepage have risen by 104 per cent.

The cost of production and airtime purchased to date combined is £2.05 million. We cannot detail the specific costs of the production of the advertisement with Miles Calcraft Briginshaw Duffy, as this would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Directgov.

Regarding payments to celebrities appearing in the campaign, we are unable to provide information for individual actors, musicians or other performers. This information is market-sensitive.

Negotiations on the involvement of these artists in the project were conducted by the COI and all of the above agreed to participate in the advert for a fraction of their normal commercial rate.

### Disability Living Allowance: Inverness

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency have continued to claim *(a)* the mobility component and *(b)* the care component of the disability living allowance after their 65th birthday in each of the last five years. [315684]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is in the following table:

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for people aged 65 plus in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey parliamentary constituency*

*Number*

| | May | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 120 | 140 | 150 | 160 | 170 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Higher care only | [1]— | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 120 | 130 | 140 | 150 | 150 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 20 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 30 |
| Middle care only | 50 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 50 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 160 | 160 | 180 | 190 | 190 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 40 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 50 |
| Lower care only | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Higher mobility only | 200 | 210 | 200 | 200 | 220 |
| Lower mobility only | 30 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Total | 750 | 820 | 850 | 920 | 950 |

[1] Nil or negligible.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

### Disability Living Allowance: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Torbay constituency received *(a)* the mobility component, *(b)* the care component and *(c)* the mobility and care components of the disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [314610]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the following table:

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for the Torbay parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

*Number*

| | May | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Care component only | 850 | 900 | 920 | 980 | 1,010 |
| Mobility component only | 1,190 | 1,150 | 1,130 | 1,120 | 1,160 |
| Care and mobility components | 3,690 | 3,910 | 4,200 | 4,470 | 4,690 |

*Notes:*

1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2 Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3 The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average waiting time was between the making of a claim for employment and support allowance by a person diagnosed with a terminal illness and the placing of that person in the Support Group in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such claims had not been determined within 13 weeks of the claim in that period; [314725]

(2) how many claimants of employment and support allowance with a diagnosis of terminal cancer had not been placed in the Support Group on the latest date for which figures are available; [314726]

(3) how many claimants of employment and support allowance who during the assessment phase of their

claim were receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment for cancer or were recovering from that treatment had *(a)* been requested to attend and *(b)* been recorded as having attended a (i) work capability assessment and (ii) work-focused interview in the latest period for which figures are available; [314727]

(4) how many claimants of employment and support allowance with a diagnosis of terminal cancer or other terminal illness had been *(a)* requested to attend and *(b)* recorded as having attended a (i) work capability assessment and (ii) work-focused interview in the latest period for which figures are available. [314728]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]*: Where a customer claims employment and support allowance under the special rules provision because they are terminally ill, their claim is fast-tracked, and upon confirmation that their illness is terminal they are immediately placed in the Support Group.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of employment and support allowance who have a diagnosis of terminal cancer or other terminal illness have been moved from the Work Related Activity Group to the Support Group for the latest period for which information is available; and for how many weeks the affected claimants received the lower rate of employment and support allowance before they were moved into the Support Group. [314934]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]*: The information is not available.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on employment and support allowance, when she expects to publish details of the strategy to migrate existing claimants from incapacity benefit to employment and support allowance. [315051]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The draft Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions) (Existing Awards) Regulations 2010 that provide for the migration of customers claiming incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance, have been referred for public consultation by the Social Security Advisory Committee. This consultation is currently underway and will finish on 8 February.

Once the Social Security Advisory Committee delivers its report, the Government will publish a response.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the evidence given to the Work and Pensions Select Committee by the Minister for Disabled People on 9 November 2009, when will the Department's *(a)* internal review into the operation of the employment and support allowance will be published and *(b)* the annual review will be published. [315719]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 4 February 2010]*: We are currently conducting a Department-led review of the Work Capability Assessment to ensure that it is accurately identifying individuals for the most appropriate support and accounting for adaptation. This technical review commenced in 2009, working with medical experts and representative groups to produce a series of recommendations. A finalised report is expected later this year.

We are also committed to conducting a statutory independent review of the Work Capability Assessment every year for the first five years of operation. The independent review is distinct from the department-led review in that it will evaluate the operation of the assessments of limited capability for work and limited capability for work-related activity. This review is currently being commissioned and will report its first findings later in 2010.

### Employment Schemes: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she plans to expand the number of Right to Control Trailblazer sites. [315048]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We plan to test the Right to Control in around eight local authority areas for two years from late 2010. The final number of areas will be determined by a selection panel's assessment of local authority bids to become Trailblazers.

It is important that the new right is fully evaluated to ensure it delivers better outcomes for disabled people. Decisions about wider roll out will be made once evaluation evidence is available.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable she has proposed in respect of the receipt of applications from local authorities to become a Right to Control Trailblazer site; and when her Department expects to complete its evaluation of such bids. [315049]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The deadline for local authorities to submit their proposals to become Trailblazer sites was 29 January 2010. The Department is currently evaluating the bids and will announce the successful sites in late February 2010.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to publish a framework for use by local authorities for the implementation of the Right to Control Trailblazer sites. [315050]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 8 December 2009 the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) issued a prospectus for potential Trailblazers to consider how best to design their bids. The ODI has supported local authorities to develop their bids through a series of information events and supporting documentation.

Regulations will set out the minimum requirements that Trailblazer sites must implement. These regulations will be developed in co-production with disabled people, their representative organisations, providers and Trailblazer local authorities. We will consult on draft regulations. Regulations will then be laid and debated in both Houses before the Trailblazers launch in late 2010.

### Fuel Poverty: Government Assistance

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals to assist with the heating bills of long-term sick and disabled people. [314577]

**Mr. Kidney:** I have been asked to reply.

*Winter fuel/cold weather payments*

People who are long-term sick or disabled may benefit from cold weather payments and/or winter fuel payments. Cold weather payments are made for periods of exceptional cold weather which last, or are forecast to last, for seven consecutive days. These payments go to people on low incomes and are currently worth £25. Winter fuel payments are paid to most people who are aged 60 or over. For winter 2009-10, these payments are £250 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 and over.

*Social price support*

Under the current voluntary agreement between energy suppliers and Government, suppliers offer some help with energy bills to vulnerable consumers, and a number include help for customers who are long-term sick or disabled.

As announced in the Low Carbon Transition Plan, the Government have decided to create a system of mandatory social price support to place the current voluntary agreement on a statutory footing for when it ends in March 2011. Draft legislation to enable this was introduced to Parliament as part of the Energy Bill on 19 November.

Detailed proposals on mandatory social price support are still under development and will be subject to the safe passage of the Energy Bill.

Proposals on the social price support schemes including proposed eligibility, will be put out to consultation this summer.

## Industrial Health and Safety

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the Health and Safety Executive has had a recommendation for hazardous substance consent declined by a local authority in each of the last five years. [314189]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Under the provisions of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 and the legislation enacted under it in 1992, 1999 and 2009, the Health and Safety Executive acts as a statutory consultee to Hazardous Substances Authorities (HSA), usually local planning authorities. HSE provides advice to HSAs on applications for consent to store hazardous substances at major hazards installations. The decision to grant or reject the consent rests with the HSA.

HSE requests HSAs to notify it of the outcome of all applications for consent as is required by Reg 11(5) of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992. However, the response to this request is variable. HSE is not aware of any occasions in the last five years where HSAs have granted consent against HSE's advice. HSE does not keep information on occasions when consents have been refused in circumstances when HSE has not advised against the application.

## Jobcentre Plus: Closures

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres have closed in the last 10 years. [309725]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentres have closed in the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am only able to provide information relating to Jobcentre Plus since it was created in April 2002 with the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency. Altogether, 506 Jobcentre Plus offices previously open to the public have been closed since April 2002.

The vast majority of these took place as a result of the decision to merge the former Benefits Agency and Employment service in 2002. Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the two former agencies. At the point of merger, the two organisations had offices which, in many instances, were geographically close to each other and provided opportunities to rationalise the estate. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent high street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres supported by 31 modern, industry standard contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network.

Our approach to closure of a customer-facing Jobcentre takes into account a range of issues, including the impact on customer service and whether the work and staff can be relocated. When we are considering changes in our service delivery planning of this nature, we consult with our customers, partner organisations, Trade Unions, staff, and local Members of Parliament.

In the light of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years a decision was taken late in 2008 to suspend the planned closure of 25 Jobcentres. Three small offices in London, where closure had been previously announced, subsequently closed in March and April 2009. However, there will be no new Jobcentre closures while the current economic conditions persist.

Jobcentre Plus continues to give people the support they need to move from benefits and into work. We quickly recruited 16,000 extra staff during the economic downturn, all for customer-facing jobs, and have moved fast to introduce new help for customers such as additional jobs advice and more support for young people.

During the downturn, our Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) workload doubled. But I am pleased to report that we are on top of performance and meeting all six of our key performance targets. We usually answer virtually all calls from customers making a new JSA claim and on average within seconds. Over 4 in 5 of customers are seen for their first advisory interview about finding work within 3 working days of making a JSA claim, and we are clearing JSA new claims quickly - on average within 10 days, well ahead of its target of 11.5 days.

## Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to ensure that people over 60 years of age receive the benefits to which they are entitled. [306559]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government are committed to ensuring pensioners receive the support they are entitled to and a number of measures have been put in place to encourage pensioners to take up their benefit entitlement.

The claim process has been simplified so that claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit can be made over the phone with pension credit without the need for a signed claim form. A targeted regional campaign is being rolled out, which is designed to engage with the local pensioner population, using channels of communication and working with organisations they are familiar with. The Pension Disability and Carers Service carries out around 13,000 visits weekly to vulnerable customers. In addition a small pilot is planned for 2010 designed to investigate the viability of making better use of the data currently held by DWP to improve pension credit take-up.

Winter fuel payments are made automatically to most people (around 95 per cent.) without the need for a claim. For winter 2008-09, over 12.3 million people in around 9 million households received winter fuel payments at a cost of around £2.7 billion.

### Social Security Benefits: Debts

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 10 largest benefit debts owed to her Department by individuals in each Jobcentre Plus district were on the most recent date for which figures are available; and to which principal benefit each debt related. [314734]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* Data on benefit debt are not broken down by geographical area or Jobcentre Plus district.

### Social Security Benefits: Disabled

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which diseases are in the category of diseases of the genito-urinary system for the purpose of classifying incapacity benefit claims; and how many people claiming incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance have each such disease. [313096]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is provided in the following table.

Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on an incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so for example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit under the diseases of the genitourinary system category would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.

*Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with a disease under the genitourinary system category GB and abroad—May 2009*

| | *Claimants* |
|---|---|
| All genitourinary system | 16,240 |
| Nephrotic Syndrome | 380 |
| Unspecified Nephritic Syndrome | 230 |
| Tubulo-interstitial Nephritis, not specified as Acute or Chronic | 110 |
| Other Renal Tubulo-interstitial Diseases | 370 |
| Chronic Renal Failure | 5,490 |
| Unspecified Renal Failure | 10 |
| Calculus of Kidney and Ureter | 370 |
| Unspecified Renal Colic | 390 |
| Other Disorders of Kidney, and Ureter not elsewhere classified | 3,240 |
| Cystitis | 160 |
| Other Disorders of Urinary System | 680 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | 150 |
| Inflammatory Diseases of Prostate | 250 |
| Other Disorders of Prostate | 110 |
| Hydrocele and Spermatocele | 50 |
| Orchitis and Epididymitis | 140 |
| Inflammatory Disorders of Breast | 50 |
| Other Disorders of Breast | 470 |
| Salpingitis and Oophoritis | — |
| Inflammatory Disease of Cervix Uteri | 80 |
| Other Female Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases | 140 |
| Endometriosis | 960 |
| Non-inflammatory Disorders of Ovary, fallopian Tube and Broad Ligament | 230 |
| Other non-inflammatory Disorders of Uterus, except Cervix | 1,150 |
| Other non-inflammatory Disorders of Vagina | — |
| Absent, scanty and rare menstruation | 10 |
| Excessive, Frequent and rare menstruation | 620 |
| Pain and other conditions associated with Female Genital Organs and menstrual cycle | 310 |
| Menopausal and other Perimenopausal Disorders | 90 |

'—' = Nil or negligible

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum due to rounding.

2. Data by medical condition is not yet available for employment and support allowance claims.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data..

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of claimants of *(a)* employment and support allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* severe disablement allowance whose capability for work was limited by obesity in each year since 1997. [313269]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The detailed classification under which employment and support allowance data will be collected is being developed.

The available information is in the following table.

*Number of claimants of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance with obesity as main disabling condition, GB and Abroad in May of each year from May 1997 to May 2009*

| | Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance | Incapacity benefit | a Severe disablement allowance |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 100 |
| 1998 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 100 |
| 1999 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 200 |
| 2000 | 1,560 | 1,390 | 170 |
| 2001 | 1,630 | 1,460 | 170 |
| 2002 | 1,700 | 1,550 | 150 |
| 2003 | 1,730 | 1,590 | 140 |
| 2004 | 1,780 | 1,650 | 140 |
| 2005 | 1,830 | 1,710 | 120 |
| 2006 | 1,890 | 1,790 | 110 |
| 2007 | 1,980 | 1,880 | 100 |
| 2008 | 2,070 | 1,970 | 100 |
| 2009 | 2,040 | 1,940 | 90 |

*Notes:*

1. 100 per cent. figures are roupded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for 1997 to 1999 have been derived by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Severe disablement allowance figures from May 1997 to May 1999 are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
4. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so for example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on grounds of obesity would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.
5. Data by medical condition are not yet available for employment and support allowance claims.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. data.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants there were in (i) the south-west and (ii) Torbay constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [314621]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is provided in the following table:

*Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants in South West Government office region (GOR) and Torbay parliamentary constituency, May 2009*

| | | Number |
|---|---|---|
| | Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance | Employment and support allowance |
| Torbay | 5,460 | 580 |
| South West region | 176,630 | 21,650 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claimants from 27 October 2008.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Longitudinal Study.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the administrative procedures officials in her Department use in relation to claims made by cancer patients simultaneously for employment and support allowance and disability living allowance; and if she will make a statement. [314933]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* Disability living allowance and employment and support allowance are distinct benefits each with their own eligibility criteria which require separate claims.

Entitlement to either benefit is not dependent on a claimant having a particular medical condition. If, however, someone has a progressive disease, which includes cancer, and their death as a result can reasonably be expected within six months, then in addition to being automatically awarded the highest rate care component (or placed in the support group, if claiming employment and support allowance), they are also fast tracked to expedite their claim and consequently the payment of either disability living allowance and/or employment and support allowance. The Department deals with disability living allowance claims such as these within eight working days and aims to make a decision on employment and support allowance claims within five working days.

The Department works closely with stakeholders and charities to improve the claims process.

## Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many challenges to determinations made in medical assessment findings by ATOS Medical there have been at tribunals *(a)* since the start of the ATOS Medical contract and *(b)* in the last 12 months; and what the cost of such tribunals has been in each case. [311100]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Decisions about entitlement to benefit are made by Jobcentre Plus and if an appeal is lodged, it is this decision that is appealed.

Data on appeals relating to incapacity benefit claims are not held centrally. Detailed information relating to the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance claims in Great Britain is available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

A copy is available in the Library. This report contains details of the number of initial assessments carried out since the introduction of employment and support allowance, a breakdown of the result of the assessment, including the fit for work decision and separate information relating to work capability assessment appeals.

Information about the number of work capability assessment appeals is in the table.

*Work Capability Assessment appeals heard on "Fit for Work" decisions—Employment and support allowance claims to December 2008/Appeals heard by end of December 2009*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Appeals heard | 8,800 |

*Notes:*

1. Includes clerical assessments.
2. Volumes will increase in the coming months as more appeals are processed, giving a more robust picture of appeal volumes and outcomes. It will then be possible to link this information to the Work Capability Assessment data and provide information on proportions appealing.
3. Figure rounded to the nearest hundred.

The Appeals Service and related costs fall under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. I am advised that the average cost for completing an appeal against an incapacity benefit/employment and support allowance decision for 2008-09 is £272.

### Social Security Benefits: Payments

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of benefits and pensions paid by her Department had payment credited *(a)* to a pre-paid card, *(b)* credited to a bank account, *(c)* credited to a post office card account, *(d)* credited to a credit card account, *(e)* credited to another account and *(f)* and paid by giro on 1 January (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [314331]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: The full information is not available in the format requested. The latest information that is available is in the following table.

Aside from the Post Office card account, the Department's systems do not differentiate between the type of external accounts that customers choose to use to receive payment of their benefit or pension.

*Number*

| *As at August each year* | *Bank or other account* | *Post Office card account* | *Cheque* | *Total payload accounts* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 16,372,040 | 3,988,690 | 424,720 | 20,785,440 |
| 2009 | 17,504,040 | 3,888,750 | 341,520 | 21,734,300 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Total does not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
3. Data does not include Northern Ireland.
4. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account.
5. Child Benefit and War Pensions are no longer administered by DWP and have therefore been excluded.

*Source:*

DWP, Information Directorate August 2009.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of her Department on stress recognition and management. [314527]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP provides comprehensive guidance on stress as part of its wider Wellbeing at Work programme. Detailed policies, procedures and advice can be accessed via a dedicated intranet site which also helps staff to recognise the symptoms and understand the underlying causes of stress and how these can be managed.

I will place copies of our advice in the Library.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on levels of binge drinking in other EU member states. [315703]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department uses the percentage of adults drinking more than twice the recommended number of units for regular drinking (two-three units for women; three-four for men) on the individual's heaviest drinking day in the last week, as a proxy estimate for binge drinking levels in the population. The latest available data, "General Lifestyle Survey 2008: Smoking and drinking among adults, 2008", published January 2010, showed that 18 per cent. of the adult population exceeded this measure on their heaviest drinking day during one survey week in 2008 compared with 20 per cent. in 2007.

We are aware of a number of studies which compare levels of binge drinking between European Union member states, such as Hemström Ö, et al, Alcohol in Postwar Europe: consumption, drinking patterns, consequences and policy responses in 15 European countries (2002), Gmel G, et al, Binge drinking in Europe: definitions, epidemiology, and consequences (2003) and the Gender, Alcohol and Culture: An International Study (GENACIS Project). International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol. It is important to note that the data sources and definitions of binge drinking used are not the same as that used by the Department of Health. They also vary between the different studies.

### Back Pain: Medical Treatments

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the implementation of guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on lower back pain; [315437]

(2) how many primary care trusts are commissioning services for people with lower back pain. [315438]

**Ann Keen:** The policy set out in 'Standards for Better Health' requires national health service organisations to take account of all relevant guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and to implement them where appropriate in line with locally-determined priorities for service development. A copy of 'Standards for Better Health' has already been placed in the Library. NHS organisations are also required to publish an overall assessment of how they have taken NICE guidelines into account as part of their annual declaration of compliance with national standards. The Care Quality Commission assesses these declarations, but organisations are not required to make declarations in respect of specific guidelines.

Detailed information on the services commissioned by primary care trusts for people with lower back pain is not held centrally. We are funding a national clinical audit of pain management services which is currently in progress. We expect the results of the first phase to be available in October 2010.

### Care Homes

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Care Quality Commission has provided advice on the provision of warden-assisted housing placements for elderly residents registered as blind. [315417]

**Phil Hope:** The Care Quality Commission has not provided any such guidance.

The Commission is the regulator of providers of health and adult social care. As such it regulates providers of personal care to people living in warden-assisted housing but does not have a role in other aspects of the housing.

### Consultancy: Contracts

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to monitor contracts awarded to consultancy firms by NHS trusts and primary care trusts. [316366]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As part of its ongoing drive to make the national health service accountable at a local level, the NHS constitution and the statement of NHS accountability have placed the emphasis on ensuring value for money to the boards of NHS organisations.

The Department, and the Office of Government Commerce, provide advice and guidance to NHS organisations on the procurement of consultancy advice to support NHS boards.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315602]

**Phil Hope:** The Communications Directorate publishes a chapter within the Department's annual report summarising activity, results and expenditure. The next report is due to be published in May 2010. Additionally, research summaries of our marketing work are published regularly on the departmental website.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315492]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has spent £18,112 on font licences over the last three years.

The Department's executive agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, has made no purchases of font licences over the period specified.

The Department has a number of arm's length bodies and several national programmes e.g. NHS Employers. Information for these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department and its agencies have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315569]

**Phil Hope:** There are currently 19 (full-time equivalent) staff employed by the Department and its agencies with the status of embedded communicators.

Government Communications Network (GCN) membership data are not held by individual Departments. The Cabinet Office, which administers the GCN, is unable to share membership data without the permission of individual members. Therefore it is not possible to readily provide this information accurately.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which Google Adword online advertising keywords his Department and its agencies have paid in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315469]

**Phil Hope:** For the period 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2010 the Department ran 21,939 active search terms, (including searches on specific campaigns and those used by NHS Choices).

The total spend on all these searches was: £2,720,457.11.

In relation to which Google keywords have been bought for use, such information is commercially sensitive; in particular the collection of the keywords the Department has paid for on NHS Choices is estimated to have taken approximately one year to complete.

The commercially competitive nature of the cost of Google Adword keywords means that putting specific information in the public domain on actual keywords used could put the Department at a future competitive disadvantage.

### East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he expects the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust to reduce its spending in 2010 and 2011; and if he will make a statement; [316015]

(2) whether he expects NHS East Lancashire to reduce its spending in 2010 and 2011; and if he will make a statement. [316016]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Management of national health service spending is determined at a local level. Services are commissioned by local primary care trusts (PCTs) and management of expenditure is determined locally. All NHS organisations are expected to meet their statutory duty to achieve financial balance.

East Lancashire PCT will receive £629.3 million in 2009-10 and £663.9 million in 2010-11. This reflects an increase over the two years of £67.4 million, 11.3 per cent. in cash terms.

### General Practitioners: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many, and what proportion of GP surgeries in Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust area are open *(a)* in the evenings and *(b)* at weekends. [315765]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The latest published figures for general practitioner (GP) surgery extended opening hours are for July 2009. In July 2009 East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust had 28 of their 43 (65.1 per cent.) GP practices offering extended opening. For South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, these figures are 502 of 641 (78.3 per cent.), and for England 6,834 of 8,279 (77.1 per cent.) of GP practices offering extended opening.

The Department does not hold figures that distinguish between evening and weekend opening.

### Genetically Modified Organisms

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research projects funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council in the last 10 years on which he relies on to fulfil his responsibility to ensure that genetically modified food is safe to eat have been designed specifically to show whether there are risks of adverse health effects for people from the consumption of genetically modified food. [316125]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer given by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State (Ann Keen) on 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 654W.

### Health Hazards: Radiation Exposure

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports there were of health problems allegedly related to wireless radiation from *(a)* high-voltage powerlines, *(b)* telephone antennae and *(c)* radio frequency and microwaves from telecommunications masts in the last 10 years. [315491]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department of Health does not hold this information centrally.

The Department has supported research over the last decade in relation to concerns that there might be adverse effects from the low levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields from power lines, mobile phones and telecommunications masts. In the course of this work, the scientific and medical communities have become aware of people who report an unusual sensitivity to electric or magnetic fields. A range of symptoms was noted by the Health Protection Agency's (HPA's) Radiation Protection Division in its publication, "Mobile Phone and Health 2004", which is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1254510624582?p=1219908766891

The HPA also published a study entitled Definition, Epidemiology and Management of Electrical Sensitivity, which is also available on the HPA website at

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1247816558210?p=1197637096018

The Health Protection Agency and the World Health Organisation keep scientific reports on health effects from electromagnetic fields under review.

### Health Services: Australia

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Australian nationals treated by the NHS and *(b)* UK nationals treated in Australia under reciprocal healthcare obligations in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of such treatment. [315805]

**Gillian Merron:** Under the agreement between the United Kingdom and Australia, residents of each country can access emergency state healthcare in each country; however no reimbursements are sought from either country for treatment provided, and so the data relating to this are not collected centrally. There is no provision for referrals for planned treatment between the two countries.

### Health Services: Greater London

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request from NHS London a copy of the report, The South West London Strategic Plan; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that report. [316386]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This is a matter for the local national health service, and it is for the local NHS to publish their plans when appropriate.

### Hospital Beds

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals were on a black alert bed status in *(a)* December 2009 and *(b)* January 2010; and what proportion of the beds involved were occupied by older patients requiring chronic care in each month. [316126]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** These data are not collected centrally.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have attended hospital for treatment for injuries consistent with a dog attack in each year since 1998. [314768]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information is not currently collected centrally in the form requested. Information for 1998 to 2002 on non-fatal accidental injuries consistent with a dog attack leading to an accident and emergency (A and E) hospital attendance is available from the Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (HASS/LASS), which ran until 2002. These data cover injuries from home and leisure accidents only (intentional injuries, and road traffic and work accidents are not included), and are estimates for the United Kingdom based on a sample of 16 to 18 hospitals.

*UK estimates of number of A and E attendances for non-fatal injuries resulting from home and leisure accidents recorded as 'Attack by Dogs'*

| | *A and E attendances (UK national estimate)* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 74,100 |
| 1999 | 70,340 |
| 2000 | 72,840 |
| 2001 | 66,850 |
| 2002 | 69,150 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are for attendances at A and E departments—the majority of cases will not have resulted in admission to hospital as an in-patient.
2. Figures are estimates based on a sample of 16 to 18 hospitals across the UK, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures are for the number of A and E attendances, not for the number of people who have attended A and E (some people may have attended on more than one occasion for a dog attack).

*Source:*

HASS/LASS

Information is collected centrally on people admitted to hospital as an in-patient with a cause of injury recorded as being bitten or struck by a dog. This does not include people only attending A and E for treatment. Figures are for England.

*Count of finished admission episodes (FAEs)[1] where there was a primary cause code[2] of bitten or struck by dog[3], England*

| *Financial year* | *FAEs* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3,079 |
| 1998-99 | 3,416 |
| 1999-2000 | 3,377 |
| 2000-01 | 3,282 |
| 2001-02 | 3,297 |
| 2002-03 | 3,473 |
| 2003-04 | 3,773 |
| 2004-05 | 4,133 |
| 2005-06 | 4,574 |
| 2007-08 | 4,611 |
| 2008-09 | 5,221 |

[1] FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES.

[3] The ICD10 Cause Code used for bitten or struck by dog is W54.

*Notes:*

1. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in national health service practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures that may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
2. The figures cover activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Hospitals: Closures

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has amended its guidance to strategic health authorities on consulting with the public on major re-configuration or closures of local hospital services since January 2009. [316387]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has not amended its guidance to strategic health authorities on consulting with the public on reconfiguration of services since January 2009.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to strategic health authorities on consulting the public on major re-configurations or closures of local hospital services; whether any specific guidance has been issued in respect of NHS London; and if he will make a statement. [316388]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department, in conjunction with its key stakeholders, has issued a raft of helpful guidance to the national health service on consulting the public on major re-configurations or closures of local hospital services.

The most recent guidance on service reconfiguration schemes going to public consultation "Our NHS Our Future Next Stage Review Leading Local Change" review by Professor the Lord Darzi, was published on 9 May 2008.

The Department has not issued guidance specifically to NHS London. However, NHS London issued its own guidance "NHS London Reconfiguration Programme Guide" in October 2008.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many separate bookings for stays at five-star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [315493]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has made six separate bookings for a total of seven nights in five-star hotels at a total cost of £1,575.21 between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009. All these bookings were for overseas destinations. The Department and Expotel do not record the star rating of hotels booked in the United Kingdom. Instead a limit of £115 per night is imposed for hotels with London postcodes and also for overseas hotels booked from April 2009. The limit is £85 for elsewhere in the UK.

### Medical Treatments: Lasers

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the health effects of low-level laser therapy. [315072]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None. However the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has issued guidance on the safe use of lasers, intense pulsed light systems and intense light emitting diodes when used as medical devices. The guidance is available at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetyguidance/DeviceBulletins/CON014775

### Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to North East Milton Keynes constituency, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316040]

**Phil Hope:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The "NHS Constitution" contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks, and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the North East Milton Keynes constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT):

92 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 97.7 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 67 to 93. Between September 2002 and September 2008, the estimated number of nurses has increased from 829 to 832.

Between September 2001 and September 2008, the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Milton Keynes PCT has increased from 54.9 to 61.1.

98.6 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Milton Keynes PCT opened its GP-led health centre in December 2009 at Glyn Valley Place, Broughton Gate in Milton Keynes. The centre is open between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, and additional services include maternity care, minor surgery, childhood immunisations, asthma reviews, family planning, diabetic reviews and cryotherapy.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, North East Milton Keynes will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the "Personal Care at Home Bill" will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

Shaping the "Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—"Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities"—launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities—was published in January 2009.

"New Horizons—A Shared Vision for Mental Health" was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

## Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many scheduled cardiology operations were cancelled at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months; [315986]

(2) how many scheduled hip replacement operations were cancelled at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months; [315987]

(3) how many scheduled gastroenterology procedures have been cancelled at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months. [316082]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested. The total number of operations cancelled by Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust for non-clinical reasons was 483 in the 12 months ending September 2009.

A further breakdown by hospital site may be obtained by contacting the chair of Somerset and Taunton NHS Foundation Trust.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on gardening and landscaping at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last five years. [316025]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information relating to gardening and maintenance has been set out in the following table.

*Grounds and gardening maintenance costs at Musgrove Park Hospital*

| | *Spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 29,627 |
| 2005-06 | 25,658 |
| 2006-07 | 32,775 |
| 2007-08 | 32,225 |
| 2008-09 | 27,737 |

*Notes:*

1. "Ground and gardens maintenance costs" includes labour costs for directly employed and contract staff including contract support costs, fees, material and pay element for directors, senior mangers and all associated staff employed in the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds, gardens and external paths of the organisation site.

2. Expenditure will also include costs relating to the employment of staff belonging to an external organisation (including private finance initiative work).

*Source:*

Department of Health (Estates returns information collection)

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average an in-patient displaying symptoms of *(a)* dementia and *(b)* Alzheimer's Disease remained at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, in the last 12 months. [316081]

**Phil Hope:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, data relating to the Taunton and Somerset NHS foundation trust have been set out in the following table:

*Mean and median length of stay for in-patients with primary diagnosis of dementia and Alzheimer's disease at Taunton and Somerset NHS foundation trust, 2008-09*

| | *Duration (days)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary diagnosis* | *Median spell* | *Mean spell* | *In-year discharge episodes* |
| Dementia | 13 | 16.8 | 30 |
| Alzheimer's disease | 20 | 21.3 | 10 |

*Notes:*

1. *Discharges:* A discharge episode is the last episode during a hospital stay (a spell), where the patient is discharged from the hospital or transferred to another hospital.

2. *Primary diagnosis:* The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. Dementia is defined with the following ICD-10 Codes recorded in primary diagnosis: F00* Dementia in Alzheimer's disease F01 Vascular dementia F02* Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere F03 Unspecified dementia Dagger codes that are relevant for "F00* Dementia in Alzheimer's disease" and "F02* Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere" have not been included in this analyses and counts for Dementia in the table are relevant to ICD-10 codes in the range of F00 to F03 where they were recorded as primary diagnosis. Alzheimer's is defined with the following ICD-10 Codes recorded in primary diagnosis: G30 Alzheimer's disease.

3. *Hospital provider:* A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (national health service trust or primary care trust (PCT)). Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded treatment centres, these data are quoted separately. In these cases, '-X' is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the treatment centres. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of data flows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

4. *Length of stay (LOS) (duration of episode)/length of stay (duration of spell):* The difference in days between the admission date and the episode end date (duration of episode) or discharge date (duration of spell), where both dates are given. LOS is based on hospital stays and applies only to ordinary admissions, not day cases (unless otherwise stated). Information relating to LOS, including discharge method/destination, diagnoses and any operative procedures, is based only on the final episode of the spell.

5. *In-patients:* In-patients are patients who are admitted to hospital and occupy a bed, including both admissions where an overnight stay is planned and day cases.

6. *Activity included:* Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

7. *Data quality:* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each year of the last 10 years. [315592]

**Phil Hope:** The Media Centre holds the licence with the News Licensing Agency (NLA) for the Department and it is renewed on an annual basis. The figures are available from 2002-03 and are provided in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Total payments*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 18,367.48 |
| 2003-04 | 42,338.19 |
| 2004-05 | 40,266.27 |
| 2005-06 | 47,320.96 |
| 2006-07 | 64,837.48 |
| 2007-08 | 66,063.61 |
| 2008-09 | 68,709.02 |
| 2009-10 | 67,341.80 |

[1] The figures provided are inclusive of VAT.

The following payments were made by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to the NLA, for the financial periods 2005-06 to 2009-10 (to date).[1]

[1] MHRA did not make any payments to NLA before the period 2005-06.

| *Financial year* | *Total payments*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 8,406.98 |
| 2006-07 | 4,895.93 |
| 2007-08 | 9,852.72 |
| 2008-09 | 8,677.94 |
| 2009-10 (to date) | 13,165.38 |

[1] The figures provided are inclusive of VAT.

No payments were made to the NLA by NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency in the last 10 years.

## NHS: Drugs

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which medicines which *(a)* have been appraised and *(b)* are under appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has its supplementary advice on appraising treatments which may extend life, at the end of life, adopted on 17 December 2008, been applied; what estimate he has made of the annual eligible patient population for each indication for each such medicine; what the outcomes were of each completed appraisal; and if he will make a statement. [315897]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested as at 5 February 2010 is shown in the following table.

| *Appraisal status/title* | *Estimated population (approximately)*[1] | *End of life criteria fulfilled for all or some of potentially eligible patient population* | *Recommendation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Published* | | | |
| Sunitinib for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma | 4,000 | Yes | Partial recommendation |
| Lenalidomide for the treatment of multiple myeloma | 2,100 | Yes | Partial recommendation |
| Bevacizumab for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma | 4,000 | Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria | Not recommended |
| Sorafenib for the first and second-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma | 4,000 | Yes | Not recommended |
| Sunitinib for the second-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma | 4,000 | Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria | Not recommended |
| Temsirolimus for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma | 4,000 | Yes | Not recommended |
| Sunitinib for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours | 150 | Yes | Partial recommendation |
| Topotecan for the treatment of lung cancer(small-cell) | Between 800 and 1,600 | Yes | Partial recommendation |
| *Ongoing* | | | |
| Lapatinib for the treatment of breast cancer | 2,000 | Yes | Final guidance not yet issued |
| Sorafenib for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma | Less than 1,000 | Yes | Final guidance not yet issued |
| Trabectadin for soft tissue sarcoma | Between 500 and 600 | Yes | Final guidance not yet issued |
| Azacitidine for myelodysplastic syndromes | 700 | Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria | Final guidance not yet issued |
| Dasatinib and niltonib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant and/or imatinib intolerant chronic myeloid leukaemia | Less than 560 | Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria | Final guidance not yet issued |
| Pemetrexed for the maintenance treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer | Unknown | Yes | Final guidance not yet issued |
| Gefitinib for the first-line treatment of advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer | Unknown | Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria | Final guidance not yet issued |

[1] Approximate number of people annually with the condition. This will not necessarily represent the number of patients eligible for treatment with the drug.

Source:
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

## NHS: Finance

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the financial cost to acute NHS trusts which do not meet the 2010 National CQUIN goal to reduce avoidable death, disability and chronic ill health from venous thromboembolism (VTE) by providing a VTE risk assessment for 90 per cent. or more of adult inpatients on admission to hospital. [315480]

**Ann Keen:** The goal on carrying out venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment for at least 90 per cent. of admitted patients is one of two nationally mandated goals within acute hospital commissioning for quality and innovation (CQUIN) schemes for 2010-11. These two national goals must be linked to around 0.3 per cent. of a trust's income. If a trust achieves both goals it will earn this money non-recurrently on top of the actual outturn value of its contracts. The weighting of the financial value between the two national CQUIN goals is agreed locally, but if they were equally weighted at 0.15 per cent. this could typically equate to a payment of between £200,000 and £1 million linked to VTE risk assessment, depending on the size of trust. Failure to achieve the goal will mean that the trust cannot earn this CQUIN payment from its commissioners. The CQUIN framework applies to providers on NHS Standard Contracts funded by the national health service in England.

## NHS: Sick Leave

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate of the number of NHS staff on paid sick leave was on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much has been paid to NHS staff while on sick leave in each of the last five years. [315647]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the form requested. The NHS Information Centre has just begun publishing quarterly figures on national health service sickness absence drawn from the NHS electronic staff record. Between April and June 2009, the average sickness absence rate for the NHS in England was 4.05 per cent. However, there is a seasonable element to sickness absence. The Boorman Review of NHS Health and Well-being (November 2009), reported an estimated annual rate of 4.5 per cent.

Individual pay information is not held centrally, and is held locally at trust level. It is therefore not known how many staff are on paid or unpaid sickness. However, the Boorman Review, estimated that reported levels of sickness absence results in a loss of 10.3 million days per year, equivalent to 45,000 whole-time equivalent staff and an estimated annual direct cost of £1.7 billion.

## NHS: Standards

**Mr. Barron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects on health outcomes of the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [315783]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has made a number of assessments of the effects of the Quality and Outcomes Framework. A copy of these documents have been placed in the Library.

## Nurses: Schools

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children resident in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England were seen by a fully qualified school nurse in each year since 2004; [315740]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of schools in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England that were visited by a fully qualified school nurse in (i) 2009, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2005. [315742]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

Our child health strategy, "Healthy lives, brighter futures", published in February 2009, recognised the importance of school health services, in particular, that school health teams provide a key link between education and health services, providing guidance and support on a range of health-related issues.

The "Healthy Child Programme", published in October 2009, will be of further assistance in determining the composition of school health teams, which will vary from locality to locality according to local needs and service configurations. In most cases, they will have school nurses at their core, working with other professionals and support staff. The latest available figures for the number of national health service employed nurses working in a school environment show an increase of over 50 per cent., from 2,409 in 2004 to 3,643 nurses in 2008.

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the provision of school nurses in each of the last five years on children's health; what estimate he has made of the volume of work undertaken by school nurses in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [315741]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has commissioned a report from the Thomas Coram Research Unit on "Promoting the health of children and young people through schools: the role of the nurse". This study, which will conclude shortly, examines the ways in which nurses are enabled and supported to contribute to the promotion and safeguarding of children and young people's health and wellbeing within school settings. It will seek to identify strategic arrangements most likely to maximise the potential of nurses' contribution, and to inform local decisions on the optimal composition of the school health team.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified nurses there were in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [315743]

**Ann Keen:** The number of qualified nurses working in the trusts that make up the requested areas are shown in the following table:

*National health service: hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England, the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area and each specified organisation as at 30 September each year*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005[1] | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | | | | | | |
| All qualified nurses (including practice nurses) | 335,952 | 350,381 | 367,520 | 386,359 | 397,515 | 404,161 | 398,335 | 399,597 | 408,160 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 316,752 | 330,535 | 346,537 | 364,692 | 375,371 | 381,257 | 374,538 | 376,737 | 386,112 |
| General practitioner(GP) Practice nurses | 19,200 | 19,846 | 20,983 | 21,667 | 22,144 | 22,904 | 23,797 | 22,860 | 22,048 |
| of which: | | | | | | | | | |
| *East of England SHA area* | | | | | | | | | |
| All qualified nurses (including practice nurses) | 31,428 | 33,028 | 34,651 | 35,685 | 38,904 | 38,177 | 37,377 | 36,815 | 37,767 |

*National health service: hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England, the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area and each specified organisation as at 30 September each year*

| | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005*[1] | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 29,206 | 30,721 | 32,192 | 33,257 | 36,342 | 35,327 | 34,72[illegible] | 34,224 | 35,254 |
| GP Practice nurses | 2,222 | 2,307 | 2,459 | 2,428 | 2,562 | 2,850 | 2,651 | 2,591 | 2,513 |
| of which: | | | | | | | | | |
| *South East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT)* | | | | | | | | | |
| All qualified nurses (including practice nurses) | — | — | — | — | — | — | 523 | 489 | 545 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | — | — | — | — | — | — | 387 | 370 | 419 |
| GP Practice nurses | — | — | — | — | — | — | 136 | 119 | 126 |
| *Southend on Sea PCT* | | | | | | | | | |
| All qualified nurses (including practice nurses) | — | — | 298 | 293 | 264 | 294 | — | — | — |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | — | — | 213 | 215 | 193 | 217 | — | — | — |
| GP Practice nurses | — | — | 85 | 78 | 71 | 77 | — | — | — |
| *Castle Point and Rochford PCT*[1] | | | | | | | | | |
| All qualified nurses (including practice nurses) | — | — | 155 | 181 | 217 | 477 | — | — | — |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | — | — | 121 | 129 | 152 | 149 | — | — | — |
| GP Practice nurses | — | — | 34 | 52 | 65 | 328 | — | — | — |
| *Southend Hospital NHS Trust* | | | | | | | | | |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 1,020 | 949 | 1,078 | 1,079 | 1,119 | 1,174 | 1,146 | 1,116 | 1,250 |

[1] Data shown for Castle Point and Rochford PCT in 2005, and hence for the parent SHA, appears to be inaccurate but The NHS Information Centre has been unable to source corrected figures as this organisation no longer exists; we confirm however this was the count of practice nurses submitted to us by the PCT at that time. It is believed the counts either side of this year present a truer picture of practice nurse staffing over time. South East Essex PCT was formed in 2006 from a complete merger of Southend on Sea PCT and Castle Point and Rochford PCT.

*Note:*

It is impossible to map NHS staff numbers to specific geographical areas.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of school nurses in England without a post-registration qualification in each of the last five years. [315754]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the numbers of school nurses without post registration qualifications is not held centrally.

## Prescriptions

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of prescriptions issued by the NHS in England and Wales were for generic drugs in each of the last five years. [316238]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Figures for the percentage of items prescribed and dispensed generically were published by the NHS Information Centre on 29 July 2009 in Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community, Statistics for 1998 to 2008: England and are shown in the following table. Information concerning Wales is a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly.

*Generic prescribing and dispensing in England by calendar year*

| | *Percentage prescribed generically*[1] | *Percentage prescribed and dispensed generically*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 79.1 | 57.8 |
| 2005 | 80.1 | 59.3 |
| 2006 | 81.8 | 62.2 |
| 2007 | 82.6 | 64.1 |
| 2008 | 82.6 | 65.0 |

[1] "Prescribed generically" indicates that the prescriber used the generic name on the prescription whether or not such a generic formulation exists.

[2] "Prescribed and dispensed generically" indicates that the prescriber used the generic name and the item was dispensed as a generic product.

Notes:

1. Items prescribed generically may not be available generically and are therefore dispensed as a proprietary product.
2. Items classed as dressings and appliances are not included in these figures.

### Public Holidays

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315117]

**Phil Hope:** No estimate has been made of the cost to the Department of introducing an additional public holiday. There would be no change in the overall pay bill for the Department because any public holiday would be paid leave.

It is not possible to make an estimate of the impact of an extra public holiday on work load over the course of a year.

### Sunbeds: Young People

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the tanning industry on the regulation of sun-bed usage by those under the age of 18 years. [315618]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department has engaged in discussions with stakeholders, including representatives from the tanning industry, over the last year, in taking forward the Cancer Reform Strategy commitment to review options for the regulation of the sunbed industry, particularly in relation to the use of sunbeds by minors.

### Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315631]

**Gillian Merron:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks, and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the South Thanet constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Eastern and Coastal Kent primary care trust (PCT):

93 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

97 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, 99.2 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 237 to 281. Between September 2002 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 2,209 to 2,361.

Between September 2001 and September 2008, the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT has increased from 53.8 to 63.3.

92.6 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT opened its GP-led health centre in early 2009 at Sheppey Community Hospital in Sheerness. The Sheppey NHS Healthcare Centre is open between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, and additional services include minor surgery, podiatry and ultrasound scanning.

There is one private finance initiative (PFI) scheme in the area that serves this constituency: a £14 million PFI scheme from Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT that opened in October 2002.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, South Thanet will have also benefitted from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper", published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities—launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities–was published in January 2009.

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health" was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged 2 to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

### Thrombosis

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when NHS Connecting for Heath plans to make an electronic version of the National Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Risk Assessment model available to NHS acute trusts for the purposes of recording the proportion of hospital patients risk assessed for VTE; and whether a specific hospital acquired VTE code will be made available. [315481][1]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** A venous thromboembolism (VTE) electronic risk assessment tool, fully compliant with the recently-published National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on reducing the risk of VTE in patients admitted to hospital, should be available for use by acute and primary care providers in England by the end of June 2010.

There is currently no individual standard clinical terminology (SNOMED CT) code for the representation of 'hospital-acquired' VTE. A number of codes were added to SNOMED CT during 2009 to support the introduction of electronic VTE risk assessment. There are also pre-existing codes that can be used for recording incidence of the condition, as distinct from risk. There are formal mechanisms for the introduction of new SNOMED CT codes should this prove to be necessary.

### Weather: Death

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of excess deaths resulting from the current cold weather; and whether he has estimated the number of excess deaths attributable to non-delivery of heating fuels because of climatic conditions. [315751]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

With current data sources, it is not possible to estimate the number of excess deaths attributable to non-delivery of heating fuels because of climatic conditions.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality: Economic Situation

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will make printed copies of "An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK" available to hon. Members in the Vote Office. [315948]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** My right hon. Friend, the Minister for Women and Equality set out a written ministerial statement on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 60WS, on the report of the National Equality Panel, "An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK". The statement offered Members three ways to obtain the report, making clear that: a copy had been placed in the House Library; that the report could be downloaded at:

www.equalities.gov.uk

and; that it could be obtained on request from the Government Equalities Office.

House officials advised that as an independent publication, the Government would not normally place copies of the National Equality Panel's report in the Vote Office.

However, I have instructed my officials to work with the Vote Office to meet the demand from Members.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received recent representations on the regulation of the sale of ultrasonic Mosquito devices; and if he will make a statement. [316229]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has received no representations about the sale of these devices.

### Higher Education: Student Numbers

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students withdrew from higher education between September and December in each of the last five years. [316529]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information on the numbers of students who withdrew from higher education between September and December in each of the last five years is not available.

The numbers and proportions of all UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants who were no longer in education after their first year (non-continuation rate) are provided as an alternative in the table.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes the 'Performance Indicators in Higher Education' which cover non-continuation rates of UK-domiciled full-time first-degree entrants. The non-continuation rate lags behind some other widening participation indicators by one year due to the need for an extra year's data to determine which students are no longer in higher education. Figures are provided for the five years to 2006/07, the most recent academic year for which information is available. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available from HESA on 15 April.

*Full-time first degree entrants no longer in higher education after their first year—UK higher education institutions, academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07*

| *Year of entry* | *Number no longer in HE* | *Percentage no longer in HE* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 29,365 | 9.5 |
| 2003/04 | 29,945 | 9.5 |
| 2004/05 | 27,605 | 8.8 |
| 2005/06 | 28,825 | 8.6 |
| 2006/07 | 28,785 | 9.0 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest five.
2. Percentages are given to one decimal place.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators, Table 3a

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[1] *[Official Report, 8 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 1MC.]*

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Charter Cities

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on proposals on UN assistance for the establishment of charter cities; and if he will make a statement. [315666]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any formal representations on proposals on UN assistance for the establishment of charter cities.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315566]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** No written instructions have been given to the Accounting Officer of the Department for International Development (DFID) in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA68, on Government Departments: Annual Reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315604]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not publish an annual report on communications. DFID reviews its communications function on a regular basis, in line with its Communications Divisional Performance Framework (DPF) which is tracked against Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 7, Managing Resources and Building for the Future, and Public Service Agreement (PSA) 29, International Poverty Reduction. These reviews are incorporated into DFID's Annual Report, a copy of which can be found in the House Library and on line at

www.dfid.gov.uk

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315573]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not paid for any font licensing for either online or print purposes in the last three years.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315571]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has 51.7 equivalent full-time posts which have the status of embedded communicator.

DFID does not hold data on staff members that belong to the Government Communications Network (GCN). The GCN is administered by the Cabinet Office and membership data cannot be shared without the permission of individual members.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which Google Adword online advertising keywords his Department and its agencies have paid in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315470]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not paid for any Google Adword online advertising in the last 12 months. DFID is not responsible for any agencies.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many job vacancies in his Department were filled through external recruitment agencies in the latest year for which figures are available. [315580]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles, appointments are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. DFID does not make use of recruitment agencies when recruiting staff to permanent positions in the Home Civil Service.

Our job advertisements are placed in the national press or specialist magazines, in addition to appearing on DFID's own website, and at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs

DFID periodically engages temporary staff through recruitment agencies to help meet immediate and short term resourcing needs. DFID has a contractual arrangement with agency suppliers to fill routine administrative positions on a temporary basis. However, there is also a need to fill specialist positions (for example, accountants and IT specialists) on a temporary basis, where operational divisions are able to approach specialist suppliers without the involvement of Human Resources Division.

DFID does not therefore maintain records of the number of agency appointments. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available. [315581]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In accordance with the Civil Service Recruitment Principles, all external appointments to the Department for International Development (DFID) are made on the basis of fair and open competition.

Job adverts for vacancies in DFID are placed in the national press or specialist magazines, in addition to appearing on DFID's own website, and at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs

DFID does not routinely use recruitment consultants to fill vacancies for permanent posts.

However, the central framework of executive search services, which is managed by the Cabinet Office, was used in February 2009 to engage Whitehead Mann at a cost of £51,700 to help identify suitable applicants for the post of Director General, Corporate Performance in DFID.

DFID periodically engages temporary staff through recruitment agencies to help meet immediate and short term resourcing needs. Many of these appointments are of specialist nature, e.g. finance, communications, and divisions can make these appointments direct with the supplier without the involvement of Human Resources Division. There are subsequently no central records of agency spend maintained within DFID and to provide this information would result in disproportionate costs.

### Haiti: Earthquakes

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of UK search and rescue teams have been assigned to Haiti to assist with the earthquake relief effort. [315917]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The UK search and rescue team (UK-ISAR) comprised 64 people, drawn from the UK Fire and Rescue Service. This team returned to the UK on 22 January, at the same time as other international search and rescue teams left Haiti. The United Kingdom should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many separate bookings for hotels graded at five star or above were made through the Expotel booking service by his Department in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost such bookings were made. [315575]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any bookings for hotel stays graded at five stars or above through the Expotel booking services in the last year for which figures are available.

### Mauritania

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government have provided to Mauritania in the last 12 months; and for what projects assistance was provided. [315964]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme in Mauritania and did not provided any aid to the country in 2008-09.

Details of DFID's aid expenditure in developing countries are published in Statistics on International Development, which is available in the Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

### Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315590]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Payments made by the Department for International Development (DFID) to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last three financial years are given in the table. Figures for earlier financial years cannot be compiled without incurring disproportionate costs.

| | *(£)* *Costs (including VAT)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-2010 | 4,489.98 |
| 2008-2009 | 4,699.28 |
| 2007-2008 | 1,359.76 |

### Overseas Aid: Climate Change

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the £1.5 billion Fast Start finance for climate change adaptation programmes announced by the Prime Minister at the UN Climate Change Conference in December 2009 will count towards overseas development assistance targets. [315410]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK is committed to providing additional post-Fast Start financing after 2012-13 on top of the Government's commitment to achieve an official development assistance (ODA) level of 0.7 per cent. of gross national income (GNI), and to limiting the share of ODA for climate change finance to no more than 10 per cent. Fast Start finance, which is for the period 2010-11 to 2012-13, will be counted as ODA.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which existing programmes received funding from budgets subsequently identified as sources of fast start finance for climate change adaptation in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [315412]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Fast Start finance period begins in 2010. Therefore no spending in 2007, 2008 or 2009 counts as Fast Start finance. We are currently working up plans for how we will spend the Fast Start funds over the next three financial years.

### Overseas Aid: Haiti

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives are in respect of its involvement in Haiti; and by what criteria progress on the achievement of these objectives will be measured. [315685]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The goal of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) humanitarian response in Haiti is to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain the dignity of earthquake victims, and to implement stabilisation activities.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how long he anticipates his Department being involved with development work in Haiti. [315686]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In the aftermath of this terrible tragedy and for the foreseeable future, we will continue to work with the international community to support recovery in Haiti.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with UN representatives on the UN's long-term strategy in Haiti. [315687]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Since the earthquake on 12 January the Secretary of State for International Development has been in regular contact with John Holmes, the head of the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to discuss a wide range of issues that must be addressed urgently in Haiti.

The United Nations will have to reassess its long-term strategy for Haiti in light of the terrible events that have taken place. However, right now the priority for the United Nations and the Department for International Development is the immediate humanitarian needs of the population.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will allocate additional funds in support of the UN's programmes in Haiti. [315688]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has announced £20 million in emergency aid for Haiti. Some of this funding is already being used by the UN or by partners on the ground working within the UN system to deliver vital aid. For example, we have provided £1 million to the United Nations Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to strengthen co-ordination mechanisms, £2 million to the World Food Programme for transport and logistics and £300,000 to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for disease surveillance to help prevent epidemics. Remaining funds will be allocated on the basis of further rapid needs assessments.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the US, *(b)* Canada and *(c)* France on the co-ordination of relief work in Haiti. [315689]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Secretary of State for International Development has held discussions on the relief effort in Haiti with Raj Shah, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). On 17 January my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also participated in a conference call on Haiti with Bernard Kouchner, the French Foreign Minister, and Miguel Moratinos, the Spanish Foreign Minister.

I attended a meeting of European Development Ministers in Brussels on 18 January. Alain Joyandet, the French Minister for Co-operation and Francophony, also attended the meeting.

On 22 February the Secretary of State for International Development will hold bilateral talks with ~~the~~ Canadian International Development Agency Minister for International Co-operation, Bev Oda, to discuss the situation in Haiti.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to co-ordinate its relief programmes on Haiti with those it is undertaking in other Caribbean countries. [315690]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The response to the Haiti earthquake is our only immediate emergency response in the Caribbean at present. We ensure consistency with our other emergency responses (such as those following the 2008 storms) by following similar principles and using the same advisory staff where we can. We co-ordinate all our responses through the United Nations system.

### Scientific Advisory Committee

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has plans to create a Scientific Advisory Committee. [315887]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** There are no current plans for the Department for International Development (DFID) to create a Scientific Advisory Committee. An external Research Advisory Group, which will provide strategic advice and support to DFID's Chief Scientific Adviser/Head of Research, is currently being established and we expect to have this in place soon.

### Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent assessment he has made of progress in the provision of humanitarian relief for Tamil internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement; [316204]

(2) how much in aid the UK has contributed in respect of Tamil internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [316205]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The latest UN figures of 15 January 2010 estimate that approximately 158,500 internally displaced people (IDPs) have returned from the camps in Vavuniya to their places of origin and 29,000 have been released to institutions and host families. Although the Department for International Development (DFID) welcomes this progress, we continue to hold concerns. Humanitarian access for agencies to assist those recently returned is restricted and the remaining 100,000 people in the camps do not enjoy full freedom of movement.

Since September 2008, DFID has contributed £12.5 million of humanitarian assistance to help those displaced in Sri Lanka. For further information, I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 105-07WS and to our website:

www.dfid.gov.uk/srilankacrisis

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Building Alterations

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of independent living adaptations and equipment provided by local authorities which was *(a)* assisted and *(b)* funded solely by charitable funds in (i) the latest period for which figures are available and (ii) each of the last five years. [315462]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315204]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has had no expenditure on font licenses in the last three years.

The Planning Inspectorate has had no expenditure on font licences in the last three years.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has had no expenditure on font licences in the last three years.

The Fire Service College could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

### Domestic Visits

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* venues and *(b)* locations the Minister for Housing has visited officially in London in the last three months; and what criteria were used to determine which boroughs and constituencies to visit. [314979]

**Barbara Follett:** My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning regularly visits the many housing developments across the country benefiting from very significant levels of Government investment. Since November, he has carried out ministerial visits to Barking and Dagenham, Newham and South Harrow in London which have all served to demonstrate how this investment is being used to benefit local communities.

### Mobile Homes: Licensing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses were received to his Department's consultation on park home site licensing; and if he will place a copy of each response in the Library. [316443]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The consultation on 'Park Home Site Licensing - Improving the Management of Park Home Sites' ended on 4 August 2009. There were 98 responses. The responses are currently being analysed and a summary of responses will be published as soon as possible.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology the Valuation Office Agency used in its 2010 business rates revaluation to calculate the fuel margin obtained in the independent petrol filling station network; and what factors that methodology takes into account. [313927]

**Barbara Follett:** The Valuation Office Agency based its assessment on the rateable value of petrol filling stations for the 2010 revaluation on the fair, maintainable, throughput of the property in question and not the actual fuel margin on the site.

The five-yearly business rates revaluation is designed to ensure that each business pays its fair contribution to the national burden and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liability fall as a result of revaluation.

Over the past five years petrol filling stations have seen prices rising; turnover increasing and rents growing. It is only fair to other ratepayers that these changes are reflected in their business rate bills. However, the Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

This means that in 2010-11 no petrol station or other business property will see its rates increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of revaluation, with increases limited to no more than 3.5 per cent. for small properties.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Boilers: Government Assistance

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the boiler scrappage scheme in contributing to the objectives of his Department. [315890]

**Joan Ruddock:** The boiler scrappage scheme contributes to DECC's objectives to:

reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the UK; and

ensure the UK benefits from the business and employment opportunities of a low carbon future.

We estimate that the scheme will reduce $CO_2$ emissions per year by 1.1 $mtCO_2$ to 1.4 $mtCO_2$. There are tens of thousands of small and medium sized UK businesses mainly in the installation sector, who are likely to benefit from the scheme.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the effects on plumbing and heating companies of the implementation of the boiler scrappage scheme. [315891]

**Joan Ruddock:** There are 250,000 jobs across tens of thousands of businesses involved in boiler manufacture, sales and installation. The scheme provides support for a number of these businesses. Since the scheme allows the householder to choose whom they wish to install the new boiler, it is not possible to predict the likely impact on individual businesses but we understand from talking to businesses that there has been a significant increase in inquiries.

### Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what formula is to be used to calculate the reduction in UK carbon dioxide emissions as a direct result of implementing the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [315182]

**Joan Ruddock:** The carbon reductions from the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme will be determined by the emissions cap which will apply from 2013. In setting the cap, Government will consider advice from the Committee on Climate Change later this year on the available cost-effective emissions reductions and the potential in the CRC sector to contribute to achieving our carbon budgets.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what incentives will be available through the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme to encourage organisations to outsource work to the most energy-efficient provider. [315183]

**Joan Ruddock:** The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme will stimulate changes in behaviour and infrastructure to improve an organisation's energy efficiency through introducing financial and reputational drivers. An organisation's energy efficiency performance will be published in the league table and the top performers will receive recycled payment made by all the participants into the scheme. In addition all who improve their energy efficiency will improve their financial standing by more cost-effective use of energy. CRC participants will determine for themselves the most effective way to make these improvements. Furthermore, individual customers and organisations seeking to procure goods and services can choose to purchase from the most efficient provider by considering the providers' position in the league table.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely reduction in *(a)* UK, *(b)* European and *(c)* global carbon dioxide emissions as a direct result of implementing the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [315184]

**Joan Ruddock:** We estimate that by 2020 the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme will deliver at least 4 mt $CO_2$ reductions per year among participants. In setting the cap, Government will consider advice from the Committee on Climate Change later this year on the available cost-effective emissions reductions and the potential in the CRC sector to contribute to achieving our carbon budgets.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what scientific *(a)* evidence and *(b)* advice he used in formulating the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [315186]

**Joan Ruddock:** As part of the development of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, Government considered a range of evidence and advice which is set out in the final impact assessment on the order to implement the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme published on the DECC website. We have also consulted extensively during the development of the scheme including in three formal written consultation exercises over the past three years.

### Departmental Advertising

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309943]

**Joan Ruddock:** The campaign advertising media costs for (i) September 2008 to March 2009 and (ii) April 2009 to March 2010 (invoiced costs only) are as follows. All costs are exclusive of VAT.

DECC was created in October 2008, just after the Save Money, Save Energy campaign advertising launched in September 2008.

*(i) September 2008 to March 2009 (invoiced costs only)*

a. Television: £4,738,855
b. Radio: £429,283
c. Print: £1,792,659
d. Online: £677,123

*(ii) April 2009 to March 2010 (invoiced costs only)*

a. Television: £2,196,624
b. Radio: £184,944
c. Print: £685,385
d. Online: £805,340

DECC spent the following amounts on recruitment press advertising:

(i) 2008-09: £58,428.50
(ii) 2009-10: £142,745.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in 2008-09; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of such advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [311571]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) today to parliamentary question number 309943. All departmental campaign advertising was commissioned via COI.

### Departmental Air Travel

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1451W, on departmental air travel, what the updated figures are for each entry in the table where the abbreviation 'tbc' was used. [315579]

**Joan Ruddock:** The updated figures for departmental air travel in 2007-08 which have been reported through the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility where the 'tbc' abbreviation was used, and where this information is held centrally, are set out in the table.

| *Participant* | *Domestic miles* | *Short-haul miles* | *Long-haul miles* | *Total miles* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFES | 296,503 | 180,195 | 635,625 | 1,112,323 |
| MOJ | 1,567,173 | 648,172 | 1,762,322 | 3,977,667 |
| ECGD | 3,808 | 92,731 | 362,224 | 458,763 |
| BAPG[1] | — | — | 121,271 | 121,271 |
| GLA[1] | 8,782 | 77,309 | 567,679 | 653,770 |
| MPS[1] | — | 9,202,138 | 6,728,730 | 15,930,868 |

[1] BAPG—British-American Parliamentary Group; GLA—Greater London Authority; MPS—Metropolitan Police Service

## Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315601]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department does not currently publish a separate annual report on departmental communications. There is a specific section in the departmental annual report which covers communications activities.

## Feed-in Tariffs

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered the effect of accreditation requirements on levels of participation in the feed-in tariff scheme; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such requirements on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [314338]

**Mr. Kidney:** The certification requirements for the feed-in tariffs scheme are explained in the Government's response to the summer 2009 consultation, published on 1 February and available from the DECC website at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) has successfully supported delivery of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme since 2006. We believe that the MCS has an important and necessary role to play in feed-in tariffs by providing independent assurance both to customers of microgeneration electricity installations, and to ensure value for money of the scheme. More information on MCS is available on the website:

www.microgenerationcertification.org

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department has received on harmonising the UK's feed-in tariff scheme with those of other EU member states. [315463]

**Mr. Kidney:** On 1 February the Government published their response to a consultation on feed-in tariffs for small-scale electricity generation, which is available in the Library of the House and from the Department of Energy and Climate Change website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

The consultation received over 700 replies.

In the course of developing the scheme Ministers and officials consulted a wide range of organisations, nationally and internationally. A number of supporting studies are also available at the same website.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department plans to prove to those in social housing to participate in the feed-in tariff scheme; and how many social housing tenants he estimates will participate in it. [315464]

**Mr. Kidney:** On 1 February the Government published their response to a consultation on feed-in tariffs for small-scale electricity generation, available from the Department of Energy and Climate Change website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

As the response states the Government consider the role of local authorities to be important and are keen for them to develop their leadership role on climate change including action on social housing. Accordingly the Government are piloting the concept of low carbon frameworks, further details may be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1449033

Further, building on the experience of pilot projects for Pay as You Save financing and Warm Front, the Government will consult later this year on measures to help low-income households take advantage of clean energy cashback.

## Fuel Poverty

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households in (i) England; (ii) Wales and (iii) Scotland who spend (A) over 20 per cent., (B) between 15 and 20 per cent., (C) between 10 and 15 per cent., (D) between 5 and 10 per cent. and (E) up to 5 per cent. of income on energy costs; and what estimate he has made of the average (1) fuel cost, (2) property SAP rating and (3) income for each such group. [316525]

**Mr. Kidney:** Fuel poverty is measured at household level rather than at individual level. Rather than actual bills, fuel poverty uses modelled bills, modelled to ensure each household maintains an adequate standard of warmth, alongside energy use on water heating, lights and appliances and cooking. Similar information is not available on actual spending.

DECC compiles detailed information for England from the English House Condition Survey and takes headline data from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to produce a UK aggregated estimate. Detailed data for Wales and Scotland are the responsibility of the respective devolved Administrations and are best obtained direct from them.

The latest fuel poverty data for England are for 2007 and show the following modelled bills, income and SAP ratings:

| | *Number of households (thousand)* | *Average income (£)* | *Average modelled fuel bill (£)* | *Average SAP* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including 5 per cent. | 11,008 | 38,610 | 1,080 | 53.3 |
| 5-10 per cent. | 7,553 | 16,990 | 1,140 | 48.8 |
| 10-15 per cent. | 1,804 | 10,860 | 1,290 | 41.9 |
| 15-20 per cent. | 515 | 8,480 | 1,440 | 35.9 |
| Over 20 per cent. | 500 | 5,130 | 1,570 | 34.5 |
| All households | 21,380 | 27,130 | 1,140 | 49.9 |

## Fuel Poverty: Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in Westmorland and Lonsdale. [316521]

**Mr. Kidney:** The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 8,800 fuel poor households in the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

## Fuel Poverty: Leeds

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of households in Leeds North West constituency are classified as living in fuel poverty. [316590]

**Mr. Kidney:** The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were 11.6 per cent. of households in the Leeds, North-West constituency that were classified as living in fuel poverty.

## Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of pensioner households in fuel poverty. [314916]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty amongst vulnerable households which includes pensioners. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency through schemes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Community Energy Saving Programme and the Decent Homes Standard;

Putting in place and continuously looking to improve a regulatory framework that promotes competition as the main driver to ensure downward pressure on prices for consumers, and to improve license conditions and strengthen Ofgem's powers through the Energy Bill; and

Raising real incomes, including through Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through Benefit Entitlement Checks under the Warm Front Scheme.

We have also introduced legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs. We have said that we are minded to focus the majority of the additional resources on older pensioner households on the lowest incomes as these households tend to have a high incidence of fuel poverty - over 50 per cent. of fuel poor households have a person over 60 living in them; their circumstances are relatively stable; and they are at the greatest risk of excess winter deaths.

Through our fuel poverty review we will continue to build and strengthen the evidence base on fuel poverty and explore better ways of targeting help at the most vulnerable fuel poor households.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter of 11 January 2010 on energy tariffs. [314786]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The letter from the hon. Member was received by the Department on 13 January 2010. A reply was drafted by officials, signed by Lord Hunt and was sent out on 5 February 2010. This is within agreed Whitehall targets.

*Letter from The right hon. Lord Hunt of King's Heath OBE, dated 5 February 2010:*

Thank you for your letter of 11 January to Ed Miliband, about the provision of information on energy customers' bills. I am replying as this matter falls within my portfolio.

I think we can both agree that the provision of clear and comparable information on energy bills is crucial for consumers, to enable them to engage fully with, and understand, the range of products available to them - so I am very happy to provide the clarifications you seek.

The issue of the provision of information on bills was addressed in the Probe into energy markets conducted by Ofgem and the remedies that resulted from it. We have therefore referred the questions you raise on this issue to Ofgem, which has advised that the Licence conditions to which you refer have been agreed following extensive consultation and input from consumer stakeholder groups. Ofgem issued its final direction on 19 October 2009.

This is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=234&refer=Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro

It also published a timetable for when these new rules were due to come into force and this is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Implementation%20of%20the%20Energy%20Supply%20Probe%20 Retail%20Markets.pdf

With regard to the rules governing the comparison of a customer's tariff with the supplier's standard direct debit tariff, Ofgem advises that Licence condition 31A.4 states that the Licensee must provide every domestic customer, once in every 12 month period, with the domestic customer's exact tariff name (31 A.4 (a)) and with details of any premium or discount that applies to the domestic customer's tariff as compared to the electricity supplier's standard tariff where payment is by direct debit (31 A.4 (c)). There is, therefore, an obligation for suppliers to provide domestic customers with a comparison of their tariff against another actual tariff. This Licence condition is enforceable under Ofgem's current powers.

However, domestic customers will be provided with a reminder, in a prominent position, that they may change their supplier, and with information about where they may obtain impartial advice and information about switching. In addition, customers can identify if they can access a cheaper standard tariff as the comparison with the supplier's standard direct debit tariff will be shown along with details of any premium or discount that currently applies to the customer's existing tariff. This information will show the extra amount the customer is paying (compared to the standard direct debit tariff) due to premium products such as a green tariff or, for example, due to their chosen payment method.

I think it is important to reiterate that Ofgem has consulted widely on its proposals to improve customer information and has received views from a range of organisations, including consumer groups and I support the changes it is introducing.

Consumer Focus has an important role to play in overseeing the switching and price comparison websites. We welcome its recent public consultation, which has just closed, on the Confidence Code - a voluntary code of practice for domestic gas and electricity price comparison. This consultation considered, among other things, an extension of the code to include telesales activity. We await its considered view on the responses to it in due course.

I also expect Ofgem to continue to work with energy suppliers, consumers and consumer representatives to ensure consumers have the information they need. In its monitoring of the effectiveness of these rules we will expect Ofgem to review whether these changes have proved sufficient to help consumers understand their energy bills and are able to make informed choices based on the information available to them.

I welcome your continued engagement on this important issue and I hope this information is helpful.

### Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each year since his Department was established. [315593]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC has made payments of £87,342.18 to the Newspaper Licensing Agency since the Department was established. This includes our current licence which is valid to 9 December 2010.

DECC has no agencies.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Coastal Areas

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost of defending Britain's nuclear sites from the effects of coastal erosion in the next 160 years. [316209]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department has not made any such estimates. As with other external hazards, ensuring that nuclear sites are protected against flooding and coastal erosion is the responsibility of the site operator, subject to regulatory oversight by the Health and Safety Executive working alongside the Environment Agency in England and Wales. These regulators require the operators to demonstrate and cover the cost of appropriate levels of protection against such hazards throughout the lifetime of the site, including the decommissioning phase.

DEFRA has promoted Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) that assess the risks of coastal erosion and tidal flooding for the whole coast of England and Wales, for the next 100 years. SMPs are prepared jointly by the relevant operating authorities using the latest coastal monitoring information. This includes the condition of all existing defences, including those constructed to protect nuclear sites. These plans consider the evidence on climate change, as well as other relevant data and research. They account for the impact of coastal processes on the whole coast including coastal communities and should be used by planning authorities where they need to take planning decisions on the coast.

A review of Shoreline Management Plans is currently under way and will be complete by the end of the year. SMPs are publicly available and include a minimum three-month public and stakeholder consultation period.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Planning Permission

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account the Infrastructure Planning Commission will take of the *(a)* method and *(b)* siting of nuclear waste storage when deciding on planning applications for nuclear power stations. [311523]

**Mr. Kidney:** Radioactive waste interim storage facilities located on site at new nuclear power stations are covered in the Draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) (see page 24).

http://data.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/documents/npss/EN-6.pdf

When considering planning applications the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be able to seek the views of the independent safety, security and environmental nuclear regulators, on both the method of storage and the siting of the storage facilities. The IPC will need to be satisfied that the necessary regulatory licence, authorisation or permit can or is likely to be issued in due course. The IPC will also be able to consider the views of other interested parties during the planning application process.

The Draft National Policy Statement is currently being consulted on. The Government will further consider what advice the IPC requires in the light of responses to the public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

### Trees

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the average cost of planting a tree as part of a carbon offset programme. [314963]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have developed a quality assurance scheme (QAS) for carbon offsetting. This covers regulated credits, which could include UN-accredited forestry projects outside of the UK. Offsets under the QAS are sold by independent companies from a range of UN-accredited projects and current prices range from around £15 to £18 per tonne of carbon dioxide depending on the supplier.

The independent Read report (Combating Climate change: a Role for UK Forests), the first report of the Committee on Climate Change and the Government's UK Low Carbon Transition Plan 2007 each concluded that woodland creation is a cost-effective measure, providing abatement at a cost of £20 to £40 per tonne carbon dioxide. This includes among other costs, the cost of tree planting.

### Wind Power

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total output was of the UK's wind turbines connected to the national grid as a percentage of their load factor in each week in January 2010. [316234]

**Mr. Kidney:** Load factors are defined as the average hourly quantity of electricity supplied during the year, expressed as a percentage of the average output capability at the beginning and end of the year. As such, these are only calculated on an annual basis, with the latest data for 2008 showing 29.4 per cent. for onshore wind and 34.9 per cent. for offshore wind.

However, an indication of the weekly load factor can be obtained by calculating total operational wind generation as a percentage of the theoretical maximum generation for all operationally metered wind plants. These data are made available by national grid and refer only to wind which is operationally metered i.e. around half of the onshore wind farms and none of the offshore wind farms. These data are given in the following table. Where this figure exceeds the load factor for onshore wind, given above, the plants are operating at above average levels.

*Electricity supplied by wind during January 2010*

| *Week commencing* | *Operationally metered wind generation (MWh)* | *Percentage of operationally metered wind generation relative to theoretical maximum operationally metered supply* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 January 2010 | 51,535 | 20 |
| 8 January 2010 | 90,839 | 35 |
| 15 January 2010 | 114,923 | 44 |
| 22 January 2010 | 61,164 | 23 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Burundi: Politics and Government

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the attempted coup to overthrow President Ndayizeye of Burundi; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the coup attempt on the July 2010 elections. [315949]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* We have received reports that 13 soldiers of the Burundian armed forces were arrested on 29 January 2010 on charges of "planning to destabilise the state". There has been no concrete coup attempt, and there is no reason to believe that this incident will affect preparations for the forthcoming elections.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the EU plans to send an observer mission to the 2010 elections in Burundi; and if he will make a statement. [315950]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The elections in Burundi this year remain a top priority for the UK and will mark an important step in further institutionalising the democratic process in Burundi. The presence of an EU Election Observer Mission (EU EOM) would constitute a significant part of this process.

The UK discusses the issue regularly with the European Commission and supports proposals for an EU EOM to Burundi. While the European Commission seeks the views of member states on a proposed priority list of countries for EU EOMs, it ultimately falls to the European Commission themselves to decide where these will be deployed. Similarly, the terms and resourcing for any EU EOM are also ultimately a decision for the European Commission.

### Conflict Resolution: Females

**Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent officials in his Department work on the *(a)* central co-ordination of activities on and *(b)* monitoring of the impact of activities undertaken pursuant to the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. [315179]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 489W.

### Cyprus: Politics and Government

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on proposals for the unification of Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [315923]

**Chris Bryant:** The two leaders have the Government's full support in their determination to achieve a Cyprus settlement for the benefit of all Cypriots and we welcome the recent intensification of talks. Both Cypriot leaders made separate visits to the UK last autumn and held talks with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has also recently discussed the Cyprus problem in separate telephone conversations with the two leaders, the Turkish Prime Minister and the Greek Prime Minister. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary recently discussed the ongoing negotiations with both the UN and the Turkish Foreign Minister, in addition to meeting both leaders and the Greek Prime Minister in the autumn. I visited the island in November 2009 and met with all key figures involved in the process. I also raised the settlement talks with my Turkish counterpart, Egeman Bagis, during a recent visit to Istanbul. I have had constant discussions and informal meetings with politicians and leaders of both communities in Cyprus and with both communities' representatives in the UK.

## Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* potential annual rental and *(b)* total book value of the (i) empty and (ii) occupied residential properties owned by his Department. [313754]

**Chris Bryant:** This information is not held centrally and is available at only disproportionate cost.

## Haiti

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for International Development in relation to Haiti in January 2010. [315915]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development are in regular contact in relation to Haiti.

## Ivory Coast: Hazardous Substances

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire on the disbursement of the compensation paid by Trafigura in respect of the toxic waste dumped by that company; and if he will make a statement. [316486]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have made clear to Ivorian Government officials the importance we attach to the claimants receiving the compensation due to them. We welcome both the decision, on 28 January 2010, by the President of the Supreme Court in Abidjan to grant a stay on the transfer of the compensation monies and President Gbagbo's personal interest in this case.

Although we cannot interfere in the Ivorian Court process, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in Accra and Abidjan continue to monitor the case and stress the importance that the victims/claimants receive the monies that are due to them at every available opportunity.

## Nigeria

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to provide assistance to the gubernatorial elections in Anambra, Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [315479]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK is not providing direct assistance to gubernatorial elections in Anambra on 6 February 2010, but is, through the Department for International Development (DFID), supporting civil society involved in election-monitoring and voter education in the state, and is also helping to build the capacity of the local media in order to encourage objective reporting of the elections.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary joined US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and EU High Representative Baroness Ashton in expressing hope that the election in Anambra will be a milestone in Nigeria's journey towards electoral reform and a signal of Nigeria's commitment to the principles of democracy.

The UK is also working hard to encourage transparent elections in Nigeria, and to improve democratic governance more broadly, including through the DFID's Deepening Democracy in Nigeria and Democratic Governance for Development programmes, funded in partnership with the European Commission, Canadian International Development Agency and UN Development Programme.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he has made representations to the Nigerian Government on the violence in Jos, Nigeria in January 2010; and if he will make a statement; [315485]

(2) what reports he has received on the number of people displaced following the outbreak of violence in Jos, Nigeria in January 2010; and if he will make a statement; [315486]

(3) what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Jos, Nigeria; and if he will make a statement; [315487]

(4) what discussions he has had with members of *(a)* the Commonwealth, *(b)* the Economic Community of West African States and *(c)* the African Union on violence in the Nigerian city of Jos in January 2010 on preventing the recurrence of such violence; and if he will make a statement. [315488]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are deeply saddened by the recent violence in Jos, Nigeria, where media reports suggest that over 550 people have died. It is not yet clear how many people have been displaced by these tragic events. We understand that the security situation has calmed and stabilised following the deployment of additional security forces by Vice-President Jonathan.

Our high commissioner in Abuja regularly discussed the situation in Jos with both the federal and state governments. He has consistently raised concerns about loss of life, and urged all sides to work together to achieve peaceful reconciliation. On 29 January my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a joint statement with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and EU High Representative Baroness Ashton in which they called on the Government of Nigeria to ensure those responsible for crimes in Jos face justice, and all parties work towards a long-term solution to inter-communal conflict. My noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa also expressed her condolences for those who had lost their lives when she met the Nigerian Foreign Minister in the UK on 20 January 2010. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had direct discussions on Jos with the Nigerian Government, members of the Commonwealth, the Economic Community of West African States or the African Union.

## Public Holidays

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315118]

**Chris Bryant:** This information would be available only at disproportionate cost. The salary cost of work foregone in the UK will depend on the number of staff who are employed on the date of the holiday and their pay costs. Staff at Posts overseas take holidays at the discretion of the Head of Post, taking into account local conditions and law. It might be the case in some locations that an additional UK public holiday would be substituted for one of the existing local holidays so the total number of public holidays taken would remain the same.

### Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [316206]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Sri Lankan Election Commissioner announced on 27 January 2010 that President Rajapakse had won the presidential election with a clear majority. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has written to the President encouraging him to use his new mandate to work towards a fully inclusive political solution which addresses the underlying causes of the conflict. It remains our view that this is the only way to achieve lasting peace in Sri Lanka. Genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities will depend in a large part on the Government promoting and protecting the rights of all Sri Lankans.

We welcome the fact that election day was largely peaceful. However in his letter to the President the Prime Minister urged the authorities to ensure that investigations are carried out into the reported violations of election law during the election campaign, including the numerous incidents of violence, and to take measures to prevent electoral violations in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. We are also pressing the Government to ensure the safety and security of all candidates and their supporters and to protect media freedoms.

EU High Representative Baroness Ashton released a statement on the election, available at the following link:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/100129_Sri_Lanka.pdf

### Sudan

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* next plans to visit Sudan. [316360]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last visited Sudan on 8-9 July 2008. The most recent visit by a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister was by my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock on 10-13 January this year. For security and operational reasons, we do not announce visits by the Foreign Secretary significantly in advance.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Day Care

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what criteria the 250,000 nursery places for two-year-olds which the Prime Minister announced on 29 September 2009 will be allocated. [301655]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 25 November 2009]*: We are committed to rolling out a free entitlement to two-year-olds, stage by stage. By the end of March 2010 it is expected some 20,000 two-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds will have access to a free early learning and child care place each year.

We will continue to make progress on the long-term ambition that the Prime Minister has set out to provide free part-time nursery places for all two-year-olds whose parents want them.

Decisions regarding the pace of future rollout will need to be taken in the light of wider fiscal considerations as part of the next spending review.

### Children's Centres: Eltham

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many parents he estimates have participated in the introduction of children's centres in Eltham constituency; [314397]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on parents in Eltham constituency of the introduction of children's centres; and if he will make a statement. [314398]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Greenwich local authority is responsible for Sure Start children's centres across its area and will assess local impact on young children and families. National research shows there is a positive Sure Start effect. The National Evaluation of Sure Start (2008) clearly shows that children behave better and are more independent if they live in Sure Start areas. Parents have more positive parenting skills to provide a better home learning environment for their children, helping prepare children to do well at school and make the most of their talents.

Sure Start children's centres are a universal service for all families with children under five. It is important that families, no matter what their situation, can benefit from better integrated, accessible services. The TNS survey of parents, published in 2009, showed that use of children's centres was widespread and that no sub-groups are being excluded from or failing to access centres. The report also shared that 78 per cent. of all respondents knew about their local centre; 74 per cent. were familiar with the term 'children centre'; and levels of satisfaction were very high with 92 per cent. of all users saying they were satisfied (68 per cent. were very satisfied).

### Children's Commissioner for England

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract of the new Children's Commissioner. [312040]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Children's Commissioner's letter of appointment and terms and conditions contains personal data so it is exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998 and so will not be placed in the Library. However, the functions and duties of the Children's Commissioner are set out in section 1 to 9 and schedule 1 of the Children Act 2004. The terms and conditions are subject to provisions of paragraph 3 of schedule 1 of the Children Act 2004.

### Children's Rights Director of England

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the salary is of the Children's Rights Director of England; how many people are employed in his office; and what the total annual cost to the public purse is of running his office. [309187]

**Mr. Coaker:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

### Family Proceedings

**Hilary Armstrong:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effects on children of the changes to the rules on reporting sensitive personal information in family courts under the proposals in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [312806]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Protecting the welfare of children is our paramount concern. The proposals in the Bill are carefully drafted to ensure that sensitive personal information remains confidential. In addition, the measures in the Bill propose to strengthen the current position and give indefinite anonymity to children involved in family proceedings.

The current proposals before Parliament make clear that treatment of sensitive personal information can be altered only once the Lord Chancellor has carried out a full and comprehensive review of the operation of the provisions including their impact on children.

### Independent Safeguarding Authority Partnership Network

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 598W, on the Independent Safeguarding Authority, who the members of the Partnership Network are; what the remit of the Partnership Network is; who chairs the network; what its budget is for 2009-10; from which funding stream its expenditure is met; and on what dates the network has met since its creation. [310610]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Membership of the Partnership Network is set out in the Interim Progress Report and Work Programme 2009-10 of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit, published 18 December 2009. This can be found at:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductID=DCSF-01181-2009&

The network was created to help ensure that the work of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit is firmly rooted in what is happening at the front line, and to act as a conduit between the unit and individual partners to feed back on and pursue specific issues impacting on effective frontline safeguarding practice. It is not intended that the total Partnership Network consisting of nearly a 100 members would meet frequently.

From time to time, small groups of network members are asked to work with the unit on specific pieces of work or join workshops to consider specific outputs the unit is developing. It is also intended that the NSDU will consult network members routinely on particular issues related to the improvement of safeguarding practice. To date, members have been invited to attend the launch of the final report of Social Work Taskforce on 1 December 2009, and selected members to attend a workshop on 4 November looking at three of the early NSDU projects.

The Partnership Network does not have a dedicated budget.

### Local Child Curfew Schemes: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child curfew orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314881]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of local child curfew orders is not collected centrally. The provisions creating local child curfew orders were repealed by the Police and Crime Act 2009.

### Pre-school Education: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* three and *(b)* four years old in Torbay constituency are in free nursery places. [314615]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The available figures are shown in the table.

*Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three and four-year-olds[3]. Parliamentary constituency: Torbay. Position in January*

| *2009* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Three-year-olds | 950 |
| Four-year-olds | 1,100 |

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if over 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Age of all children taken at 31 December 2008.

*Source:*

Early Years Census and School Census

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

### Schools: Mental Health Services

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many professional school counsellors there are in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools. [313872]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The school funding system provides a sum per pupil in a local authority for it to distribute for all its education responsibilities including schools. Once delegated to a school, it is for the school governors to decide upon the use of the delegated budget to meet the school's priorities, which may include purchasing the services of a counsellor. We do not collect information on the use of school funding in sufficient detail to capture information about which schools employ professional counsellors.

However, we are committed to improving the emotional and mental health of children and young people and to help them develop social and emotional skills, improve self-esteem and self-control, enabling them to develop good relationships and to promote their resilience, so they can adapt to change and cope with difficult circumstances. We have developed a number of school-based approaches to support this, some of which may include the use of services such as counselling.

Supporting the psychological well-being and mental health of pupils is a key component of whole school programmes such as the Healthy Schools programme and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme. Such programmes are intended for pupils generally and may need to be supplemented by more specialist support for certain pupils.

The Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme, funded by £60 million between 2008-11, builds on the successful social and emotional aspects of learning programme (SEAL) for those pupils who need additional support. Some of the schools involved in the programme have chosen to offer counselling-based approaches as part of their package therapeutic interventions to children at risk of developing mental health problems.

In addition, the White Paper "Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future", published in June 2009, stated as a pupil and parent guarantee that from September 2010 every young person in secondary school will have a personal tutor who knows them well, has an overview of their progress and ensures any learning needs or issues are quickly addressed.

### Social Work Task-Force

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1063-64W, on the Social Work Task Force, if he will place in the Library a copy of the draft of the final report provided on *(a)* 13 October, *(b)* 20 November and *(c)* 27 November 2009. [311869]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not general practice for the Department for Children, Schools and Families to release draft versions of published reports. The final report of the Social Work Task Force was launched on the 1 December and is available here:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01114-2009

### Sports: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on sports coaching in each of the last three years; and through which bodies such coaching was delivered. [316343]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As part of the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, the Department's spend on coaching over the last three years has been as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3,992,000 |
| 2008-09 | 7,175,000 |
| 2009-10 | 9,196,500 |

This funding was paid to School Sport Partnerships who used it to employ sports coaches at a local level to help deliver high quality coaching provision in schools.

### Sure Start Programme: Leeds

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start places have been established in Leeds North East constituency since 1997. [314656]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are six designated Sure Start Children's Centres in the Leeds, North-East constituency, reaching over 5,560 children under five and their families. There are no more centres planned for the constituency. Reach defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Figures for the number of people actually using children's centres are not collected centrally.

### Vetting

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to page 5 of Sir Roger Singleton's report, "Drawing the line", published in December 2009, when the Government's review of the continuing need for controlled activity will be complete. [309670]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend's, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, written ministerial statement of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 50-53WS, about the publication of Sir Roger Singleton's report, "Drawing the Line", on the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), and the Government's response to Sir Roger's report, both of which are in the House Libraries.

The Government's response to recommendation 9 of the report makes clear that the DCSF and the Department of Health will take forward the review of the continuing need for controlled activity together, in collaboration with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Government will launch this review shortly.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcohol: Under-age Sales

4. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers were convicted of an offence of selling alcohol to under-age people in the last 12 months. [315832]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** In 2008 there were 459 prosecutions leading to 366 convictions. During the same period 2,824 penalty notices for disorder were issued by the police.

### Police: Local Authority Funding

19. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether local authorities have discretion to fund police officers in addition to those funded by police authorities. [315849]

**Mr. Hanson:** Under the Police Act 1996 local authorities may make grants to any police authority whose police area falls geographically within the local authority area. Grants may be made unconditionally or, with the agreement of the chief officer, subject to conditions.

Conditions could include that funding be spent on police officers.

### UK Border Agency

20. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of allowing regional offices of the UK Border Agency to accept further representations from asylum applicants who claimed asylum before March 2007. [315850]

**Mr. Woolas:** In October we made important improvements to the security and efficiency of the asylum system by requiring applicants wishing to put in further submissions relating to their asylum claim to do so in person. Regional asylum teams were set up in 2007 to deal with newer asylum claims. Those teams are receiving further submissions in those newer cases but do not have the operational capacity to receive further submissions from all cases in the "legacy" caseload.

However, we have established exceptional criteria for those unable to travel.

### Stop and Search Powers

21. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of stop and search powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [315851]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office and police keep the effectiveness of section 44 under constant review. Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, also reviews the operation of section 44 and reports his findings to Parliament.

We believe section 44 remains an important tool in countering the threat from terrorism.

### Front-line Policing

22. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on front-line policing of reduced police numbers in certain forces. [315852]

**Mr. Hanson:** The pre-Budget report announced that sufficient funding will be provided to allow police authorities to maintain numbers of police officers, police community support officers and other staff exercising police powers in the years to 2012-13.

Our priority is to protect the front-line and maintain a focus on increasing public confidence in the police service and achieving improvements in value for money.

### Immigration: Hub and Spoke System

23. **Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's use of the hub and spoke system for processing immigration applications. [315853]

**Mr. Woolas:** The hub and spoke system has been rolled out gradually since June 2007. This model has enabled the UK Border Agency to improve the efficiency and consistency of its visa operation, building on its network of visa application centres, as well as increasing the security and integrity of our staff and improving customer service.

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the regulation of the use of Mosquito devices; and if he will make a statement. [315848]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** My Department has recently received two representations on the use of Mosquito devices. Our position on antisocial behaviour is that it should be tackled, not tolerated. We encourage local agencies to consider the full range of innovations and schemes and practices intended to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

### Asylum

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers have given birth in the UK while awaiting immigration determination in each of the last five years; and of these how many have *(a)* applied for section 4 hard case support and *(b)* applied for section 4 support after the deadline of six weeks after birth and were subsequently refused payment. [313537]

**Alan Johnson:** The requested information on the number of applications for section 4 hard case support from unsuccessful asylum seekers who have given birth in the UK is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case records.

### Asylum: Offenders

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers from each country of origin whose application for asylum in the UK had failed have been convicted of each category of a criminal offence in each year since 1998. [314816]

**Alan Johnson:** Identifying the number of failed asylum seekers who have been convicted of a criminal offence since 1998 would necessitate reviewing the individual case files of all failed asylum seekers. Not all offences would meet the deportation criteria and would thus not always be recorded in an easily retrievable format. Obtaining such data could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency removed or deported 3,890 foreign national offenders in the first-three quarters of 2009. Of those removed or deported, approximately one-third had, at some stage prior to their removal, submitted a claim for asylum.

### Crimes of Violence

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use his Department makes of health service data in estimating trends in the level of crime involving injury. [315512]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 4 February 2010]*: Hospital admissions data for assault are published on a regular basis.

A key objective of Phase II of the Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action Programme (TKAP) is to ensure that key hospitals are sharing data on injuries resulting from serious violence with local Police and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. The Department of Health's £200,000 'Innovation Fund' is supporting the development of new and existing A&E data sharing in 13 NHS Trusts across England and we have set a target of 100 hospitals sharing data across England and Wales by March 2010.

In addition to the work of TKAP, the Home Office Alcohol Strategy Unit (ASU) also utilises hospital admissions data in assessing levels of violence related to the Night Time Economy and in defining priority areas for profiling and support. It is also involved in the data sharing programme with A&E and is currently preparing a national training programme for CDRP analysts on obtaining and fully utilising A&E data which will contribute to the above work.

### Cybercrime

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent assessment is of the level of threat to cyber security in the UK. [310443]

**Mr. Hanson:** The first annual update of the UK's National Security Strategy 'Security for the Next Generation', published in June 2009, provides a general assessment of the full range of threats to national security that the UK faces including those relating to cyber security. The UK's first Cyber Security Strategy, published at the same time, gives further outline of evolving threats and sets out a framework for addressing the challenges of cyber security.

Threat assessments are regularly carried out in response to the range of threat actors but details of these are not disclosed into the public domain.

### Cybercrime: Financial Services

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of cyber attacks or misuse of the data and information systems of UK-based banks and financial services companies there were in each year since 1997. [314008]

**Mr. Hanson:** Any organisation or individual that believes that they have been the subject of such attacks or interference on their computer should report the matter to the police, who can then investigate the complaint.

Cyber attacks, misuse of data and information systems are general terms. Specific offences, as defined in law, would be classified under the appropriate section of Computer Misuse Act 1990 dependent upon the circumstances of the individual offences. Such offences would then be recorded under Home Office classification 53B 'Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (Pre Fraud Act 2006)'. Offences recorded under individual sections of the Computer Misuse Act cannot be separately identified from the other offences recorded within this offence classification.

### Departmental Consultants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313997]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on the Home Department's, including United Kingdom Border Agency and Identity and Passport Service agencies, total consultancy expenditure from 2005-06 and as a percentage of the total Department's spend on goods and services is as follows:

*Table 1*

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure on consultancy services (£ million)* | *Total expenditure on goods and services (£ million)* | *Consultancy spend as a percentage of total spend* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 139 | 1,535 | 9.1 |
| 2006-07 | 148 | 1,678 | 8.8 |
| 2007-08 | 96 | 1,544 | 6.2 |
| 2008-09 | 140 | 1,748 | 8.0 |
| 2009-10 | [1]62 | 1,064 | 5.8 |

[1] First six months of the financial year: provisional figure.

To provide information on consultancy spend prior to 2005-06 would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on reimbursable expenses paid to consultants in each of the last 10 years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Deportation

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1091W, on deportation, how many charter flights removing people with no right to remain there were in 2008-09; and how many people were removed from the UK upon such flights. [312099]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* In the financial year April 2008 to April 2009 there were 67 charter flights removing people with no right to remain in the UK, with 1,658 individuals removed.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Quarter three 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

### Deportation: Haiti

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any citizens of Haiti in the UK are subject to deportation proceedings. [314776]

**Alan Johnson:** There are currently no Haitian nationals subject to deportation proceedings in the UK and no planned removals to Haiti. The UK Border Agency continues to keep the situation under close review. Any individual cases that do arise will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, taking into account any compassionate circumstances.

### DNA: Databases

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people with records on the National DNA Database entered after a suspected offence for which they were not prosecuted were subsequently convicted of the same offence in the latest period for which figures are available. [315414]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The purpose of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is to match DNA profiles derived from traces found at crime scenes with profiles taken from known individuals, and to pass reports of matches to the police for further investigation. The NDNAD does not hold information on the development of police investigations, or on whether individuals with profiles on it are or are not convicted. The information requested is therefore not available.

### Dogs: Walsall

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received representations on the raid by police on Rosedene Boarding Kennels, Radley Road, Walsall. [315558]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have received no such representations.

### Firearms

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on controlling the sale of *(a)* firearms and *(b)* air weapons; and if he will make a statement. [315803]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* Businesses wishing to sell firearms, including air weapons, must register as dealers with the police, who must be satisfied that there will be no risk to public safety. Dealers must keep records of transactions and can only sell to someone permitted to purchase the type of firearm concerned. Prohibited weapons can be sold only with the authority of the Secretary of State.

### Forced Marriage

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether he has plans to increase the level of funding allocated to the Forced Marriage Unit for expenditure on services provided by the third sector; [315084]

(2) by what mechanisms the outcomes achieved by third sector organisations funding by the Forced Marriage Unit are evaluated; [315082]

(3) what the procedure is for *(a)* bidding for Forced Marriage Unit funding and *(b)* assessing such bids. [315083]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) was set up in 2005 and initially provided ad hoc funding to initiatives run by the third sector. To give this support more structure, the FMU piloted a domestic programme fund of £65,000 in 2008-09. This was aimed specifically at funding third sector projects which help deliver the Unit's published Action Plan. For 2009-10 the initiative was continued and the fund increased to £84,000. Funding allocations for the FMU in 2010-11 have not yet been set. It is important to remember that Government funding for third sector activity to help tackle forced marriage is not only available via the FMU, for example funding can also be sought from Government Offices.

For financial year 2009-10, applications for funding from the FMU Domestic Programme Fund were invited via the FCO website from June 2009. Bids were submitted using a standardised application form which was publicly available. Bids were assessed against a common set of criteria including value for money, likely impact, support to the objectives laid out in the FMU Action Plan, and a clear and measurable reporting process to ensure transparency and accountability. The fund is designed to fund small projects rather than core funding to organisations. Organisations that had previously received funding were only eligible to bid for further funding where they were up to date on reporting to the FMU. Project implementers were required to be from the voluntary sector. Partnership with local government was strongly encouraged but applications solely from local government organisations were not considered. Applications were then assessed by a panel including FMU staff.

Organisations funded by the FMU are required to submit reports on activities undertaken as well as on monies spent to demonstrate achievements set against the agreed project objectives and value for money. The frequency of reports will depend on the duration of the project. All projects are required to submit final outcome and financial reports upon completion. Reports are evaluated by FMU staff. Where needed, staff will ask for supplementary information. In addition, where reports clearly identify national learning this information is considered and shared with other stakeholders where appropriate.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the referrals of victims of trafficking to the UK Trafficking Centre made between 1 April and 31 December 2009 were of individuals who entered the UK *(a)* legally and *(b)* illegally. [316230]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It is not possible to identify whether someone has entered the UK legally or illegally from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) statistics.

The NRM identifies victims of serious crime and is not a process for recording immigration status. The mode of entry of a potential victim of trafficking into the UK is one of a number of factors assessed by a Competent Authority but it is not held on a central record for statistical purposes.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences relating to the trafficking of people for the purposes of domestic servitude. [316231]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** There have been no prosecutions to date for trafficking for domestic servitude under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004.

### Hunting: Enforcement

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure compliance with legislation on hunting with hounds. [315339]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government are clear that the Hunting Act must be complied with as we cannot pick and choose which laws we obey in a democratic society. Ministers have been in regular contact with the Association of Chief Police Officers who have stated their commitment to enforcing the hunting legislation.

### Identity Cards: Greater London

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the likely level of take-up of national identity cards by people aged 16 to 24 years and resident in London from 8 February 2010. [315027]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* We have made no estimates of the likely take up of national identity cards by people aged 16 to 24 years and resident in London.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Safina Hussain. [315023]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 February 2010.

### National Identity Register: Scotland

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many record checks have been made against the National Identity Register by *(a)* the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and *(b)* other Scottish agencies since the introduction of the scheme. [315629]

**Meg Hillier:** Since the launch of the National Identity Service for British citizens in November 2009, there have yet to be any requests for provision of information from the register to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency or to any other Scottish agencies.

### North Yorkshire Police: Finance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from North Yorkshire Police on its budget allocation for 2010-11. [316121]

**Mr. Hanson:** None.

### Passports: Interviews

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interviews at passport centres resulted in the refusal of a passport in 2009. [313501]

**Meg Hillier:** There were two passport applications refused in 2009 as a direct result of personal interviews.

Identity interviews were added to the passport process primarily to address first time application fraud through deterrence and fraud detection arising from a personal interview. In addition to the two instances of confirmed fraud applications have also been withdrawn when customers are advised that an identity interview is required. From September 2007 to June 2009 which is the latest information available, 1,816 applications were withdrawn at this stage. Together this information underlines the usefulness of the interview as a deterrent to those attempting to make a fraudulent passport application.

## Police

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department provides guidance to the police on numbers of officers attending raids on premises. [315559]

**Mr. Hanson:** While there is no guidance specific to the number of police officers attending raids, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Manual of Guidance on Keeping the Peace assists the police in preparing for and managing events where there is a risk to public safety or a potential for disorder. Specifically the Conflict Management Model states the commanding police officer should have regard to:

Available information/intelligence;

Threat assessment;

Requirement to use powers and policy appropriately and lawfully in compliance with, national, regional and local legislation and guidance;

Tactical options;

Requirement to act in compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights.

## Police: Assessments

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers have failed work-based assessments in the pilot areas for such assessments. [315077]

**Mr. Hanson:** Work-based assessment is the final step of the four step National Police Promotion Framework which is currently being trialled in 10 police forces. It allows police officers who are temporarily promoted to be developed and assessed in the workplace before being substantively promoted. After assessments of competence and legal knowledge, police forces can use their own assessment methods to select the most suitable police officers to undertake work-based assessment of national occupational standards. This process gives police forces the flexibility to manage the number of successful police officers in accordance with local operational and workforce planning objectives.

*National Police Promotion Framework Steps*

Step One: Suitability. Police officers are eligible to enter the promotion process once they have established their competence in their current rank. Candidates must be endorsed as suitable for promotion by their Line Manager.

Step Two: Legal Examination. This is established through taking the OSPRE® Part I Legal Examination, which is a national paper based multiple choice examination.

Step Three: Assessment against rank specific competencies and matching to vacancies. Police officers' potential to perform at the next rank is assessed against the relevant behavioural competencies.

Step Four: Temporary Promotion and Work Based Assessment. Police officers demonstrate competence in the rank to which they aspire and are supported over a 12 month period in order to ready them for substantial promotion.

Pass and failure rates since 1 April 2009 for each of the steps are set out in the table below. These do not refer to discrete cohorts of candidates but to the number of assessments within the time period.

*National police promotion framework sergeants' process*

| | *Step 1* | *Step 2*[1] | *Step 3* | *Step 4* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total number completing a step | 4,104 | 0 | 1,092 | 380 |
| Total number successful | 4,104 | 0 | 574 | 375 |
| Total percentage successful | 100 | 0 | 52.6 | 98.7 |
| Total number unsuccessful | 0 | 0 | 518 | 5 |
| Total percentage unsuccessful | 0 | | 47 | 1 |

[1] Data for Step Two as Sergeants OSPRE® . Part 1 examination takes place once a year in March, therefore falls outside of the time period quoted

*National police promotion framework inspectors' process*

| | *Step 1* | *Step 2* | *Step 3* | *Step 4* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total number completing a step | 1,402 | 1,165 | 72 | 157 |
| Total number successful | 1,402 | 600 | 44 | 156 |
| Total percentage successful | 100 | 51.5 | 61.1 | 99.4 |
| Total number unsuccessful | 0 | 565 | 28 | 1 |
| Total percentage unsuccessful | 0 | 48.5 | 38.9 | 0.6 |

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects on the workload of police sergeants and inspectors in the pilot areas for work-based assessments of those assessments; and what the cost to the police has been of implementing and managing those assessments. [315078]

**Mr. Hanson:** Police officers are assessed in line with the "Qualifications and Credit Framework National Vocational Qualification Code of Practice". Police forces are registered with awarding bodies who ensure compliance with their assessment strategy.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is collecting data from the 10 police forces involved in the National Police Promotion Framework Trial. These data incorporate an element of work-based assessment, on police force costs and the resource implications for police officers. This will form part of the evaluation of the trial and will be considered by the Police Promotion Examinations Board, which is made up of all of the main policing stakeholders.

The data are currently unavailable, they will be available only at the end of the trial period, which is anticipated to be spring 2011.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the pilots work-based assessments for the police; and whether he has plans to implement work-based assessments outside the pilot areas. [315079]

**Mr. Hanson:** The National Policing Improvement Agency has been working with the National Police

Promotion Framework Trial Project Board to drive forward improvements over the trial period. There has been progress on implementing national standards through the licensing system and a comprehensive equality impact assessment has been published The development of the new National Occupational Standards and a new Strategic User Group has been established.

The two year National Police Promotion Framework Trial, which incorporates an element of work-based assessment, is due for completion in March 2011. There are currently no plans to roll this out to other police forces before an evaluation has been completed.

### Police: Manpower

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers per 100,000 of population there are in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [316068]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Member for Wellingborough to my previous answer on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 632.

As at 31 March 2009, there were 196 police officers per 100,000 population in Northamptonshire and 266 police officers per 100,000 population in England and Wales.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [314524]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office and its agencies are committed to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff, and recognise the importance of managing risk factors in the workplace. The policy for Home Office HQ, UKBA and IPS on stress recognition and management is published in Home Office Notice 41/2007; a similar policy exists in CRB. The HSE were consulted during the creation of this policy which is based on the HSE Management Standards. A copy of the policy documents will be placed in the Library.

Additional advice and support is also made available to staff via the Home Office intranet, stress awareness sessions, Occupational Health Service and our Employee Assistance Programme.

### Sussex Police: Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers there were in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each year since 2002 in Sussex Police. [315774]

**Mr. Hanson:** The available data are provided in the following tables.

*Police officer strength in Sussex, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2009, and September 2009*

| *Police officers* | *Full-time equivalent*[1] |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,085 |
| 1998 | 2,996 |
| 1999 | 2,847 |
| 2000 | 2,822 |
| 2001 | 2,855 |
| 2002 | 2,893 |
| 2003[2] | 2,989 |
| 2004[2] | 3,039 |
| 2005[2] | 3,044 |
| 2006[2] | 3,092 |
| 2007[2] | 3,077 |
| 2008[2] | 3,032 |
| 2009[2] | 3,163 |
| September 2009 | 3,201 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).

[2] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

*PCSO strength in Sussex, as at 31 March, 2002-09*

| *PCSO* | *Full-time equivalent*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2002 | n/a |
| 2003 | 22 |
| 2004 | 83 |
| 2005 | 228 |
| 2006 | 257 |
| 2007 | 352 |
| 2008 | 372 |
| 2009 | 399 |
| September 2009 | 396 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

*Notes:*

1. Full-time equivalent include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
2. Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

### Vetting: Compensation

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been paid in compensation to people for slow processing of Criminal Records Bureau checks. [315376]

**Meg Hillier:** The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) makes financial awards to redress customers for its maladministration in accordance with Treasury policy. It calculates each award on the merit of the claim. Awards range from small consolatory payments for inconvenience, to larger sums representing actual loss. The CRB does not maintain separate statistics which distinguish delay from the other elements which merit an award.

### Vetting: Fees and Charges

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid to the *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau and *(b)* Independent Safeguarding Authority in fees for record checks in each of last 10 years. [309719]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The following table shows the fees collected by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in each of the last seven years since its establishment in 2002.

The fee for the Vetting and Barring Scheme registration is collected on behalf of the Independent Safeguarding Authority by the CRB at the point of registration. From July 2010 those employed to work with children or vulnerable adults will be required to apply for ISA registration which will incur a one-off fee of £64 (£58 in Northern Ireland) which will be payable to the Criminal Records Bureau. The Independent Safeguarding Authority has not received any fees for record checks.

*Disclosure income—per CRB published accounts*

| | *Income (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 114.5 |
| 2007-08 | 97.8 |
| 2006-07 | 93.2 |
| 2005-06 | 75.9 |
| 2004-05 | 65.2 |
| 2003-04 | 50.9 |
| 2002-03 | 18.3 |

### West Yorkshire Police: Ethnic Groups

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers from each ethnic group there were in the West Yorkshire police force area in each year since 2005. [315537]

**Mr. Hanson:** The available data can be seen in the following tables.

These and other related data are published annually as a supplementary part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

*Police officer strength in West Yorkshire by ethnicity, as at 31 March, 2005 to 2009*[1]

*Number/percentage*

| | *White* | | *Mixed* | | *Black or Black British* | | *Asian or Asian British* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Proportion* | *Number* | *Proportion* | *Number* | *Proportion* | *Number* | *Proportion* |
| 2005 | 5,427 | 95.7 | 46 | 0.8 | 43 | 0.8 | 120 | 2.1 |
| 2006 | 5,439 | 95.7 | 47 | 0.8 | 41 | 0.7 | 126 | 2.2 |
| 2007 | 5,465 | 95.7 | 46 | 0.8 | 43 | 0.7 | 134 | 2.3 |
| 2008 | 5,563 | 95.5 | 47 | 0.8 | 42 | 0.7 | 139 | 2.4 |
| 2009 | 5,572 | 95.2 | 53 | 0.9 | 43 | 0.7 | 151 | 2.6 |

*Number/Percentage*

| | *Other ethnic group* | | *Not stated* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Proportion* | *Number* | *Proportion* | *Total* |
| 2005 | 12 | 0.2 | 24 | 0.4 | 5,671 |
| 2006 | 13 | 0.2 | 19 | 0.3 | 5,685 |
| 2007 | 15 | 0.3 | 11 | 0.2 | 5,713 |
| 2008 | 17 | 0.3 | 14 | 0.2 | 5,822 |
| 2009 | 19 | 0.3 | 16 | 0.3 | 5,854 |

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

## TREASURY

### Banks: International Cooperation

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications of discussions at the World Economic Forum in Davos for the regulation of the banking system. [315433]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The success of the global economy is underpinned by the strength and resilience of the financial sector. The UK has, since the start of the crisis, been at the forefront of EU and international efforts to advocate more collective and consistent actions to deliver reform of financial regulation. But we must avoid complacency as economic recovery resumes.

Therefore, all G20 members must, in 2010, prioritise progress in fulfilling the ambitious financial regulation reform commitments already agreed last year, specifically in areas such as strengthening prudential standards, dealing with systemic cross-border firms, and implementing measures to curb excessive risk-taking by firms.

### Billing: Enforcement

**Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines have been imposed on small and medium-sized companies for late payment of value added tax in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [315185]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issued the following number of VAT default surcharges in the last six- and 12-month periods for which information is available:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1 August 2009 to 31 January 2010 | 276,141 |
| 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2010 | 537,077 |

Information is not readily available on VAT default surcharges issued to businesses of different size and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315298]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all parts of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work. In Blaydon people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, nearly 500 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell for two consecutive months in November and December and now stands at nearly 5 per cent. below its October level. Long-term unemployment is still nearly 90 per cent. lower than in 2000 at the end of 2009.

### Corporation Tax

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue was foregone in the debt reliefs included in corporation tax in the last three financial years; and what effects on companies of such relief his Department has identified. [313907]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs does not have the necessary data to calculate the revenue implications of the various aspects of the UK's corporation tax regime that provide relief for debt.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* composite properties in (i) England and (ii) Wales have an entry on the Valuation Office Agency's central council tax database; and how many have one or more associated digital photographs on the Agency's database. [315040]

**Ian Pearson:** The number of domestic dwellings in England with a live council tax band was 22,825,755 as at 2 February 2010. Of these, 934,465 have one or more digital photographs associated with them. The number of composite dwellings in England with a live council tax band was 282,416 as at 2 February 2010. Of these, 15,006 have one or more digital photographs associated with them.

The number of domestic dwellings in Wales with a live council tax band was 1,369,271 as at 2 February 2010. Of these, 171,231 have one or more digital photographs associated with them. The number of composite dwellings in Wales with a live council tax band was 30,493 as at 2 February 2010. Of these, 5,372 have one or more digital photographs associated with them.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any written instructions have been provided to the Accounting Officer for his Department in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315313]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury has received two ministerial directions since 1997. I shall place copies of the correspondence in the Library.

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315138]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Prime Minister announced in October 2008 that all central Government Departments will aim to pay invoices within 10 days. The Treasury Group commenced reporting 10-day payment performance for all suppliers, irrespective of size, in November 2008.

I also refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Glasgow East, (John Mason) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 594W.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the annual unitary payment is to the private finance initiative provider responsible for works and refurbishment to his Department's buildings. [309165]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The annual unitary payment to the PFI provider for the 1 Horse Guards Road building can be calculated from data shown in the Treasury's 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts HC 611 available from:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

The unitary payment of £18,287,000 is the sum of 'Interest element of on-balance sheet PFI contract' £11,929,000 and 'Service element of on-balance sheet PFI contract' £4,444,000 in note 7.2 'Other administration costs' on page 198 plus 'PFI contract' £1,914,000, shown in note 17.1 'Creditors analysis by type—amounts falling due within one year'.

## Departmental Drinking Water

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313029]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer the former Exchequer Secretary, the hon. Member for Burnley (Kitty Ussher) gave on 11 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 979W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313823]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** All staff in HM Treasury and its agencies have annual performance reviews.

Unsatisfactory performance is dealt with under the Managing Capability Policy.

The number dismissed due to inefficiency/unsatisfactory performance in each of the last five years has been less than five and is thus not disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.

Information on staff numbers in HM Treasury and its agencies are published in the annual report and accounts, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/annual_report09.htm

## Income Tax

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional *(a)* steps he has taken and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs staff have taken or deployed to restrict conversion of income into capital gains or corporation revenues following his announcement of an increase in the top rate of income tax. [313901]

**Mr. Timms:** Anti-avoidance rules are already in place in tax legislation to prevent the conversion of income into capital. The effectiveness of these rules is kept under review.

Most recently, Finance Act 2009 introduced principles-based legislation to address attempts to convert interest-like returns on investments into a capital gain (the disguised interest rules) and attempts to dispose of rights to future income in return for a capital payment (sale of income streams rules).

HM Revenue and Customs is also consulting on a proposed new hallmark covering Income into Capital schemes within the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes regime, which will help ensure the Department has early information about any schemes being developed.

## Local Government Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to allow local authorities to use systems of tax increment financing. [315148]

**Mr. Byrne:** As announced at PBR 2009, Government are continuing to examine the framework that would be needed to implement tax increment financing, while considering the primary legislation that would be needed if schemes were to be introduced. Any decision to implement the policy will have to be taken in light of the overall fiscal position.

## Low Incomes: Pensioners

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer(1) how many people aged 75 years and over had an income below *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* the age-related personal allowance of £9,640 and *(c)* the basic level of personal allowance of £6,475 in 2009-10; [314173]

(2) how many people aged between 65 and 74 years old had an income below *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* the age-related personal allowance of £9,640 and *(c)* the basic level of personal allowance of £6,490 in 2009-10. [314174]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* Estimates of the number of taxpayers with total income below £10,000 in 2009-10 are provided in the following table.

| | *under £6,475* | *under £9,640* | *under £10,000* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 75 and over | — | — | 64,400 |
| 65 to 74 | — | 41,300 | 139,500 |

Figures are based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) and projected in line with the 2009 pre-Budget report assumptions.

Similar figures covering non taxpayers with incomes below the age-related personal allowances of £9,640 for those aged 75 and over and £9,490 for those aged 65 to 74 in 2009-10 are not available in the SPI.

## PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the terms of reference and objectives of the Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) Improvement Group; when the PAYE Improvement Group was established; what the PAYE Improvement Group's *(a)* staff and *(b)* budget (i) was in each of the last three years and (ii) is expected to be in 2010; and what (A) documents and (B) reports the PAYE Improvement Group has produced to date. [315158]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) PAYE Improvement Group was created in 2005 to help the Department explore options for improving the operation of PAYE. The information requested is provided in the following table; the group has not produced any formal reports.

| | *Staff numbers (FTE)* | *Budget—excluding staff costs (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3.5 | 15,980 |
| 2007-08 | 4.5 | 258,879 |
| 2008-09 | 5 | 99,770 |
| 2009-10 | 6.5 | 257,017 |

### Public Holidays

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315113]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No such estimate is available.

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer over what timetable the proposals in the pre-Budget report 2009 to cap contributions to public sector pension schemes will be implemented. [315260]

**Mr. Byrne:** Cap and share reforms will apply to valuations of the teachers, local government, civil service and NHS pension schemes due to be completed by April 2012.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the likely effect of the implementation of proposals in the pre-Budget report 2009 to cap contributions to public sector pension schemes on the pension deficit implied on each affected pension scheme. [315336]

**Mr. Byrne:** Cap and share applies to the teachers, NHS, civil service and local government pension schemes. With the exception of the local government scheme these operate on a pay-as-you-go basis: these schemes have no fund, so no surplus or deficit. Future cash flow projections for the pay-as-you-go public service pension schemes are presented in chart 6.E of the Long Term Public Finance Report 2009, which was published alongside the pre-Budget report 2009. These projections include allowance for the potential savings as a result of cap and share due to increasing life expectancies. This shows that in the long-term the cost of providing public service pensions will remain a low and stable share of GDP.

### Revenue and Customs

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation HM Revenue and Customs has conducted with *(a)* staff and *(b)* unions on proposed redundancies among its human resources staff. [314284]

**Mr. Timms:** Between 2006 and 2008 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) undertook a Regional Review Programme to bring its office network in line with plans to modernise the Department and improve service to customers while delivering significant efficiencies. The final decisions on which offices would close were announced in December 2008.

As part of the regional reviews HMRC held eight week consultation periods to give staff and unions the opportunity to comment on its restructuring proposals and the feedback received was taken into consideration as part of the decision making process.

Following the announcements about which offices would close managers held one-to-one meetings with staff affected by the decisions to discuss their options. HMRC maintains a regular dialogue with union representatives and staff on the impact of transformation and is committed to supporting staff directly affected.

On 13 January 2010 HMRC announced that under the next stage of the Workforce Change programme, 130 offices identified for closure during the regional reviews would be vacated in the 2010-11 financial year. As a result, approximately 1,700 staff who have not yet found alternative posts will be eligible to apply for voluntary redundancy or severance on compulsory terms. Of this number less than 1 per cent. are human resources staff. Discussion with the unions took place before the announcement was made.

HMRC is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancy wherever possible and will make every effort to redeploy people who wish to continue their careers in the Department or the wider Civil Service.

**Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the work of HM Revenue and Customs High Net Worth Team; what changes are proposed to be made to the team; and if he will make a statement. [314922]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) High Net Worth Unit (HNWU) was created in April 2009 to deal specifically with the tax affairs of the UK's wealthiest individual taxpayers.

The unit's aim is to take an overall view of the tax affairs of these individuals and improve HMRC's understanding of them. This will enable HMRC to communicate more effectively with them, influence their behaviours and provide a more robust evidence base for policy decisions and assessment of their liabilities. However, it is too early to assess the overall impact of the unit's work.

Following its initial creation, the unit is now in a position to make some changes to the staff structure of its teams, to reflect the growing understanding of its requirements within this specialist segment. This will maintain the unit's existing nine offices, while improving efficiency and effectiveness.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been of HM Revenue and Customs' Special Customer Records programme; and how many taxpayers are registered as special customers. [315258]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not have a 'Special Customer Records Programme'. HMRC applies high standards of confidentiality and security to all customer data.

It would not be in the public interest, and could put individuals at personal risk, to disclose the number of individuals for whose records HMRC provides additional safeguards.

### Tax Avoidance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disclosures have been made under the Liechtenstein disclosure facility; how many disclosures were made under the offshore disclosure facility; and what revenue was *(a)* predicted and *(b)* achieved from such disclosures. [313905]

**Mr. Timms:** The facility to make disclosures under the Liechtenstein disclosure facility has been available since 1 September 2009 and will run until 31 March 2015. As at the end of January, 198 people had registered that they intend to make a disclosure and six had made their final disclosures, which are being reviewed.

HM Revenue and Customs' initial estimate is that approximately £1 billion in unpaid taxes may be recovered over the five year period of this facility.

For information on the offshore disclosure facility I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 105W. The revenues recovered from this were in line with projections.

## Taxation: Business

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses deferred tax payments to HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three financial years; how much was deferred in tax payments in each of those years; how many companies did not comply with their agreements for deferral of tax payments in each of those years; and what the average length of payment deferral time was in each of those years. [315501]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as data are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

The 2009 pre-Budget report confirmed that since its introduction in November 2008 HMRC's Business Payment Support Service supported over 160,000 businesses, collectively employing more than 1.2 million people, spread payment of over £4 billion of tax over a period they could afford.

Sampling exercises show that over 90 per cent. of all arrangements were being paid either fully or partially in line with the agreements agreed under the Business Payment Support Service. Over 60 per cent. of all arrangements are for three months and below.

## Taxation: Domicile

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 588W, how many individuals claimed non-domiciled status in each taxable income band in *(a)* April 2008 and *(b)* April 2009. [313575]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]*: Information is only available on the numbers of individuals indicating non-domicile status on their Self Assessment (SA) returns. The last available full year's SA data relate to 2006-07, and are provided in the following table:

| *Total income taxable in the UK (lower limit)*[1, 2] | *Individuals indicating non-domicile status (including both resident and non-resident individuals)* |
|---|---|
| £0 | 87,000 |
| £100,000 | 24,000 |
| £500,000 | 3,000 |
| £1,000,000 | 2,000 |
| £5,000,000 | 200 |
| All[3] | 117,000 |

[1] Individuals may have other income which is not taxable in the UK.

[2] Income bands above £5 million have been grouped together to protect taxpayer confidentiality.

[3] Rounded to the nearest thousand.

## Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to extend arrangements for tax relief under the furnished holiday lettings rules from 6 April 2010 for those who let furnished holiday properties as their *(a)* sole source of income and *(b)* main business; and if he will make a statement. [316535]

**Mr. Timms:** Budget 2009 announced that the furnished holiday lettings (FHL) rules would be repealed with effect from April 2010. Draft legislation and an impact assessment were published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report in December 2009. There are no plans to extend the FHL rules in the way suggested.

## Valuation Office: Freedom of Information

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the Valuation Office Agency to make a substantive response to Freedom of Information request 11461802.1/CEO, submitted to the Agency in August 2008; and what the reasons are for the time taken to respond to that request. [308686]

**Ian Pearson:** The VOA will provide a substantive answer to this request by 26 February 2010. The VOA has written to the requester explaining the reasons for the delay in replying.

## Welfare Tax Credits

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of tax credit claimants had been *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid more than (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times and (iv) four times since their claim began in the latest period for which figures are available. [316536]

**Mr. Timms:** Through the Tax Credits Transformation programme HM Revenue and Customs is continuing to help people to reduce the likelihood of getting an over or underpayment on their award.

Information on the number of tax credit awards with more than one, two, three and four underpayments or overpayments, between 2003-04 and 2007-08, is provided in the following table:

*Thousand*

| *Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment occurred* | *Number of awards underpaid* | *Number of awards overpaid* |
|---|---|---|
| (a) More than once[1] | 964 | 2,138 |
| (b) More than twice[2] | 236 | 635 |
| (c) More than three times[3] | 39 | 130 |
| (d) More than four times | 3 | 15 |

| | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| *Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment occurred* | *Number of awards underpaid* | *Number of awards overpaid* |
| Proportion of all tax credit awards in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 which were under/overpaid more than once (Percentage) | 10 | 22 |

[1] Number is cumulative and therefore includes (b), (c) and (d).
[2] Number is cumulative and therefore includes (c) and (d).
[3] Number is cumulative and therefore includes (d).

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual cases of tax credit overpayment his Department has taken to court to seek recovery in each month since April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [316537]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) initiates court action only as a last resort.

The number of court actions initiated by HMRC through the county court (in England and Wales)[1], sheriff's court (Scotland) and magistrates court (Northern Ireland) from April 2009 for the recovery of tax credit overpayments are shown in the following table.

[1] For England and Wales these figures relate only to actions commenced centrally and exclude those commenced by local HMRC Technical Offices where it is not possible to readily disaggregate tax credit cases from the total number of locally initiated court actions.

| | *Court cases* |
|---|---|
| *2009* | |
| April | 355 |
| May | 240 |
| June | 197 |
| July | 199 |
| August | 122 |
| September | 87 |
| October | 121 |
| November | 72 |
| December | 56 |
| *2010* | |
| January | 160 |

## JUSTICE

### Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in the criminal justice system have been required to undergo alcohol treatment as part of a sentence in each of the last five years. [316403]

**Maria Eagle:** Offenders aged 18 or over convicted of offences committed on or after 4 April 2005 and who have expressed their willingness to comply can be sentenced to an alcohol treatment requirement (ATR) as part of a community order or suspended sentence order. Courts can make it a requirement of a community rehabilitation order or community punishment and rehabilitation order for offenders convicted of offences committed before 4 April 2005 and 16 to 17-year-old offenders to receive alcohol treatment.

The youth rehabilitation order (YROs), the new community sentence for under-18s, was introduced in November 2009. A specific intoxicating substance requirement can be made part of a YRO under which an under-18 would be required to undertake treatment for alcohol misuse. Data for the number of YROs with an intoxicating substance requirement are not yet available.

The number of offenders made subject to an ATR in each year from 2005, when the ATR first became available to courts in England and Wales, to 2008 is shown in the following table[1]. Equivalent data for 2009 will be published on the last working day of April. It is not possible to provide data for the number of offenders required to attend alcohol treatment as part of a community rehabilitation order (CRO) or community punishment and rehabilitation order (CPRO) from 2005-09.

*ATR commencements*

| | *Community order* | *Suspended sentence order* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,356 | 194 | 1,550 |
| 2006 | 2,439 | 821 | 3,260 |
| 2007 | 3,267 | 1,441 | 4,708 |
| 2008 | 4,664 | 1,881 | 6,545 |

[1] Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008

*Note:*

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315295]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period is not available for the constituency of Blaydon, it is available for Northumbria. This shows an increase in the total number of offenders sentenced annually from 50,378 in 2000 to 50,622 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

Likewise, the number of offences brought to justice for the Northumbria area increased from 39,360 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 to 45,399 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Blaydon. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Northumbria was 66,781 in 1997 compared to 60,642 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three-month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Gateshead was 14.07 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a reduction in reoffending of 3.07 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in Northumbria was 4,083 in 2000 and 6,574 in 2008.

55,879 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria HMCS area in 2008, compared to 44,568 in 2000. There were also 4,368 private law applications and 258 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008/09, compared to 3,353 and 277 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than fourteen million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

## Brighton Special Cases Unit

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Review Panel covering the Brighton Special Cases Unit has met; on what date each such meeting took place; who *(a)* acted as the (i) chairman and (ii) clerk and *(b)* attended each meeting; how many (A) matters were considered and (B) appeals were (x) upheld and (y) rejected at each meeting; on what date papers were distributed for each meeting; and how many pages there were in each paginated bundle. [315728]

**Bridget Prentice:** Committee agendas are not kept for five years. SCU retain the original agendas for 18 months. Copies of decisions are retained on the individual case files. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the period January to December 2009 determinations by single independent adjudicators were: (a) 41 upheld the clients' review in part or full, (b) 194 dismissed. In the same period determinations by committees of independent funding adjudicators were: (a) five upheld the clients' review in part or full, (b) 37 dismissed. These reviews covered applications, amendments and discharges of funding.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the statutory requirement set out in paragraph 6.4(b) of the Review Panel Arrangements 2000, what *(a)* professional and other qualifications and *(b)* specialist experience and knowledge is held by the Regional Director of the Adjudicators to whom appeals against decisions of the Brighton Special Cases Unit may be referred. [315729]

**Bridget Prentice:** The regional director for Special Cases Unit is David Keegan. He is more widely the director of high cost cases. He is not a solicitor or barrister. He has been employed by the Legal Services Commission and its predecessor the Legal Aid Board for 19 years. He has been the director for Special Cases Unit since 2000. Prior to that he was regional director for the south-east. He is supported by an experienced professional team specialising in specific areas of law, currently consisting of 10 solicitors, three barristers and five legal executives (qualified or in training).

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the Regional Director of the adjudicators is to whom appeals against decisions of the Brighton Special Cases Unit may be referred. [315730]

**Bridget Prentice:** The regional director for Special Cases Unit is David Keegan. He is more widely the director of high cost cases. He is not a solicitor or barrister. He has been employed by the Legal Services Commission and its predecessor the Legal Aid Board for 19 years. He has been the director for Special Cases Unit since 2000. Prior to that he was regional director for the south-east. He is supported by an experienced professional team specialising in specific areas of law.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which personnel are employed in the Brighton Special Cases Unit of the Legal Services Commission (LSC); what professional and other qualifications were considered relevant to the fulfilment of their role in each such case; to whom such personnel are accountable; and from whom they can seek advice within the LSC. [315732]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Special Cases Unit presently employs 10 solicitors, three barristers and five legal executives (qualified or in training). They operate in teams specialising in areas of law with senior case managers providing supervision. Senior case managers are typically solicitors and barristers of 20 to 30 years' qualification. They are accountable to the director of high cost cases. They can obtain advice from the legal and governance team in LSC's head office.

## Community Orders

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were handed down in each of the last five years; and how many such orders were handed down with *(a)* a mental health treatment order and *(b)* an unpaid work order. [316532]

**Claire Ward:** The following table shows the number of community orders and those with a mental health treatment and unpaid work requirements which commenced under probation service supervision in each year from 2005 to 2008 (latest available).

Data are available from April 2005 only as the community order was introduced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.

*Total number of persons starting community orders and the number of those required to undertake mental health or unpaid work requirements, 2005-08*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Community order | 53,248 | 111,752 | 117.860 | 120,743 |
| *of which:* | | | | |
| Mental health requirement | 262 | 750 | 652 | 739 |
| Unpaid work | 29,947 | 66,937 | 74,779 | 74,629 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Parliament and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on Clause 36 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill; [315646]

(2) whether he notified the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament of the provisions in Clause 36 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill; [315755]

(3) what discussions he had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive and *(b)* the Scottish Parliament on the provisions of Clause 36 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill. [316049]

**Mr. Wills:** Clause 36 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill triggers the Sewel convention and we have been working with the Scottish Ministers to seek the consent of the Scottish Parliament in line with the Sewel convention. The Scottish Parliament gave its consent by way of a Legislative Consent Motion on 28 January.

### Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of persons convicted of *(a)* sexual offences, *(b)* violence against the person, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* drug offences in each year since 1998 served the maximum applicable sentence. [315472]

**Claire Ward:** There are 440 offences—each with a statutory maximum—included in the categories asked for; to extract the number of persons sentenced to or who have served the maximum in each year could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* advertising, *(c)* publishing, *(d)* public relations, *(e)* professional training and *(f)* other activities for each campaign (i) operated by his Department and (ii) commissioned from other organisations in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; and which organisation operated each campaign which was not operated by his Department. [308779]

**Mr. Straw:** Campaigns are defined as activities undertaken by the Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies (Her Majesty's Courts Service, the National Offender Management Service, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian) to communicate departmental programmes and policies to the public.

The nature of the Ministry of Justice's activities, principally administering the courts, prisons, probation and tribunals systems, is such that it does not engage in such campaigns to any significant degree.

The way in which the Ministry records its expenditure does not enable us to identify all of the costs associated with specific campaigns without incurring disproportionate cost. Expenditure is recorded according to the type of expenditure and the business unit which incurs the expense. To provide a full response would therefore involve analysing individual transaction records in each of the five categories of expenditure *(a)* to *(f)* for headquarters and the Ministry's four executive agencies for the last four years to identify which costs related to campaigns, as defined.

*Advertising and publicity expenditure on campaigns*

As campaigns will, by their nature, involve advertising and publicity expenditure, the following limited information has been collated from the Ministry's business areas in respect of specific advertising campaigns:

*Democracy, Constitution and Law (DCL)*

Total advertising expenditure for all years from 2004-05 to 2008-09:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 3,000 |
| 2005-06 | 372,068 |
| 2006-07 | 163,727 |
| 2007-08 | 20,434 |
| 2008-09 | 14,335 |

The expenditure was for the following initiatives:

Law Commission: Promotional advert on DCL's work placed in *Modern Government* magazine, in-house magazine and in *Government: Public Sector Journal.*

Information Commissioner's Office: Article feature and placement costs, production of public information films, full colour page advertorial in *Chief Talent Officer*, full page advertisement in *SME Enterprise Magazine*, promotion and distribution of public information films.

Elections and Democracy: National and regional press adverts for the general election, posters and radio advertising for collective campaign.

Information Policy: Production of posters, leaflets and small items of stationery for advertising the commencement of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

*Criminal Justice Group (CJG)*

The two main advertising campaigns which are ongoing are:

Victims Support

Intimidated Witness

Both initiatives are advertised mainly in the form of leaflets. The campaigns are intended to raise public awareness of the support available to witnesses and victims from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The advertising expenditure for these two campaigns is not separately identifiable from the rest of the publicity and advertising expenditure of the CJG.

*Access to Justice*

The vast majority of advertising expenditure of HM Courts Service (which is from the MOJ Access to Justice budget) is for the Operation Payback initiative. The costs incurred are as follows:

2005-06: £252,000

2006-07: £21,000 via the Central Office of Information

2007-08: £2,110.

HM Courts Service did not commission any Operation Payback campaigns in 2008-09.

Operation Payback involved intensive week-long blitzes on outstanding fines which were initiated and co-ordinated by HM Courts Service in association with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), local police and other Criminal Justice System organisations.

Operation Payback is now running under the title of Operation Crack Down.

*Tribunals Service*

In 2007-08 £204 was spent on the launch of the Welsh language scheme.

*National Offender Management Service NOMS*

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS), which has responsibility for the prison and probation systems, has spent the following non-recruitment related amounts on advertising, external publicity and broadcasting. Amounts relating to specific advertising campaigns cannot be separately quantified except at disproportionate cost.

| | *Advertising expenditure (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06[1] | 36 |
| 2006-07[1] | 17 |
| 2007-08[1] | 31 |
| 2008-09 | 281 |

[1] The figures obtained for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 is for HM Prison Service (HMPS) agency only. They exclude NOMS HQ (previously a directorate within the parent Department) which is now part of the NOMS agency from 2008-09. The figure for 2008-09 is for NOMS HQ and HMPS but excludes the National Probation Service. The 2008-09 figures are therefore not comparable to previous years.

*Note:*

1. All years exclude expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts which are part of NOMS, each of which operates its own separate accounting system. However, a one-off exercise undertaken in 2007-08 found that expenditure on advertising and promotion by the 42 local probation boards and trusts was £58,264. This information-gathering exercise was not repeated in any other years.

In addition to the campaigns mentioned above, the Ministry has commissioned adverts in the local media to support the 'Justice Seen and Justice Done' campaigns that were funded entirely by the Home Office.

*Campaigns (i) run by the Department and (ii) and commissioned from other organisations*

Campaigns are managed by the Ministry but some work is commissioned from other organisations. Advertising commissions are undertaken by the Central Office of Information, a government department which exists to provide advertising services to Government in the most cost-effective manner. The Ministry has a contract with TSO to supply the Department with a large proportion of external publications. The Ministry's publications via TSO can be found at:

http://www.tso.co.uk/about/whoAreWe/

It would incur disproportionate cost in order to obtain a split between expenditure undertaken in house and that commissioned from other organisations.

## Driving Offences

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for *(a)* an offence of drink driving and *(b)* each other motoring offence in (i) Torbay constituency, (ii) Devon and (iii) England resulted in a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [314213]

**Claire Ward:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Devon and Cornwall police force area and England for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and other motoring offences (by offence type) is given in Tables 1 and 2 from 1999 to 2008 (latest available). Sentences of immediate custody imposed at all courts are given in Tables 3 and 4.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data for Devon cannot be separately identified from within the Devon and Cornwall police force area.

Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn 2010.

*Table 1: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Devon and Cornwall police force area, of motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 75 | 63 | 78 | 78 | 85 | 75 | 67 | 52 | 57 | 54 |
| 3 | Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 2,098 | 2,052 | 2,229 | 2,271 | 2,489 | 2,341 | 2,299 | 2,199 | 2,140 | 2,054 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 480 | 547 | 698 | 687 | 656 | 782 | 743 | 725 | 760 | 999 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 106 | 91 | 118 | 139 | 154 | 267 | 224 | 151 | 131 | 83 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 843 | 980 | 1,006 | 1,105 | 1,364 | 1,187 | 928 | 812 | 725 | 776 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 3,228 | 4,259 | 3,916 | 4,196 | 4,220 | 4,126 | 3,608 | 4,111 | 3,773 | 3,478 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | 381 | 642 | 771 | 1,267 | 1,417 | 868 | 752 | 798 | 658 | 794 |
| 11 | Work record and employment offences | 84 | 111 | 103 | 125 | 60 | 93 | 73 | 67 | 44 | 52 |
| 12 | Operator's licence offences | 26 | 37 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 23 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 13 |
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | 663 | 430 | 466 | 542 | 567 | 591 | 416 | 444 | 370 | 310 |

*Table 1: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in the Devon and Cornwall police force area, of motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 90 | 67 | 90 | 77 | 62 | 99 | 41 | 28 | 28 | 46 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | 274 | 260 | 218 | 207 | 182 | 179 | 128 | 163 | 158 | 219 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 3,370 | 4,142 | 3,698 | 3,334 | 4,729 | 4,642 | 4,933 | 4,472 | 3,835 | 2,821 |
| 17 | Motorway offences (other than speeding) | 2 | – | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | 535 | 444 | 376 | 635 | 530 | 605 | 1,048 | 968 | 648 | 452 |
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | 86 | 96 | 82 | 80 | 62 | 67 | 41 | 33 | 43 | 44 |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 548 | 399 | 446 | 370 | 315 | 238 | 237 | 240 | 143 | 81 |
| 21 | Lighting offences | 180 | 146 | 127 | 146 | 133 | 117 | 86 | 77 | 67 | 97 |
| 22 | Noise offences | 26 | 29 | 16 | 25 | 15 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 14 |
| 23 | Load offences | 126 | 185 | 202 | 189 | 225 | 169 | 80 | 118 | 85 | 101 |
| 24 | Offences peculiar to motor cycles: | 5 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 847 | 903 | 787 | 885 | 1,634 | 1,460 | 1,978 | 1,286 | 971 | 445 |
|  | Total | 14,073 | 15,737 | 15,461 | 16,389 | 18,849 | 17,954 | 17,719 | 16,783 | 14,676 | 12,945 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 2: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England, of motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2,008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 3,633 | 3,716 | 3,807 | 4,512 | 5,035 | 4,951 | 4,330 | 3,987 | 3,817 | 3,307 |
| 3 | Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 74,413 | 71,471 | 70,854 | 76,191 | 78,291 | 80,986 | 79,005 | 78,410 | 76,145 | 68,755 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 33,414 | 29,016 | 25,646 | 22,582 | 20,279 | 19,711 | 19,325 | 18,204 | 27,106 | 57,369 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 5,406 | 5,107 | 5,384 | 5,243 | 5,613 | 5,749 | 5,469 | 5,419 | 5,535 | 3,998 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 37,389 | 37,656 | 38,518 | 41,512 | 49,042 | 52,550 | 48,895 | 43,901 | 41,710 | 37,929 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | 155,039 | 159,841 | 157,522 | 170,470 | 194,103 | 204,708 | 188,749 | 181,047 | 162,854 | 139,170 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | 8,930 | 10,567 | 12,180 | 17,822 | 21,896 | 21,380 | 12,211 | 10,136 | 10,213 | 11,980 |
| 11 | Work record and employment offences | 5,006 | 4,493 | 3,940 | 3,107 | 2,890 | 2,336 | 2,030 | 1,830 | 1,338 | 1,504 |
| 12 | Operator's licence offences | 1,476 | 1,580 | 1,263 | 981 | 777 | 704 | 703 | 640 | 461 | 420 |

*Table 2: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England, of motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2,008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | 19,754 | 16,302 | 13,842 | 12,798 | 13,583 | 13,066 | 11,242 | 9,108 | 7,166 | 6,081 |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 3,845 | 3,235 | 3,270 | 3,077 | 3,021 | 2,445 | 1,816 | 1,404 | 1,029 | 717 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | 14,476 | 11,661 | 9,141 | 7,670 | 6,961 | 7,387 | 6,674 | 6,207 | 6,189 | 6,869 |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 133,535 | 124,105 | 121,515 | 110,485 | 122,839 | 134,134 | 141,995 | 137,022 | 134,144 | 115,211 |
| 17 | Motorway offences (other than speeding) | 1,373 | 2,088 | 1,481 | 1,792 | 1,181 | 1,423 | 1,751 | 1,186 | 1,070 | 932 |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | 24,999 | 25,486 | 23,582 | 21,516 | 20,823 | 22,372 | 19,556 | 21,076 | 21,077 | 18,260 |
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | 4,009 | 3,104 | 2,471 | 2,079 | 2,169 | 2,139 | 1,909 | 1,514 | 1,552 | 1,685 |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | 14,777 | 12,702 | 12,070 | 11,606 | 12,037 | 9,747 | 7,190 | 5,742 | 3,659 | 4,144 |
| 21 | Lighting offences | 3,890 | 2,912 | 2,306 | 2,167 | 2,055 | 2,177 | 2,123 | 1,892 | 1,601 | 1,667 |
| 22 | Noise offences | 1,050 | 786 | 655 | 459 | 415 | 376 | 349 | 277 | 219 | 253 |
| 23 | Load offences | 9,904 | 9,285 | 7,791 | 6,592 | 6,737 | 5,844 | 4,576 | 4,406 | 4,093 | 4,338 |
| 24 | Offences peculiar to motor cycles | 201 | 259 | 249 | 213 | 226 | 295 | 209 | 197 | 152 | 114 |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 41,838 | 40,449 | 38,236 | 42,851 | 55,151 | 71,505 | 67,896 | 49,384 | 67,024 | 42,170 |
|  | Total | 598,357 | 575,821 | 555,723 | 565,725 | 625,124 | 665,985 | 628,003 | 582,989 | 578,154 | 526,873 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given. [2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. [3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 3: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in the Devon and Cornwall police force area, for motoring offences[1] by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 25 | 29 | 24 | 33 | 30 | 32 | 21 | 18 | 20 | 17 |
| 3 | Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 48 | 50 | 68 | 49 | 59 | 52 | 65 | 30 | 20 | 29 |
| 5 | Accident offences | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 247 | 247 | 255 | 285 | 304 | 201 | 182 | 130 | 96 | 91 |
| 9 | Vehicle insurance offences | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
|  | Total | 323 | 328 | 349 | 369 | 396 | 286 | 269 | 198 | 136 | 138 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 4: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in England, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Dangerous driving | 1,475 | 1,591 | 1,753 | 2,022 | 2,186 | 2,116 | 1,827 | 1,584 | 1,454 | 1,285 |

*Table 4: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in England, for motoring offences[1], by offence type, from 1999 to 2008[2,3]*

| *Offence group* | *Offence type* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 3,433 | 3,239 | 3,249 | 3,099 | 2,880 | 2,811 | 2,580 | 2,104 | 1,879 | 1,712 |
| 4 | Careless driving | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 5 | Accident offences | 69 | 67 | 70 | 76 | 64 | 70 | 77 | 59 | 49 | 38 |
| 7 | Driving licence related offences | 11,230 | 11,665 | 12,402 | 12,562 | 13,300 | 11,177 | 9,175 | 7,008 | 5,420 | 4,227 |
| 9 | Vehicle, insurance offences | 5 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| 10 | Vehicle registration and excise licence offences | — | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 13 | Vehicle test offences | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 14 | Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records | 22 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 15 | Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 16 | Speed limit offences | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — |
| 18 | Neglect of traffic directions | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| 19 | Neglect of pedestrian rights | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — |
| 20 | Obstruction, waiting and parking offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| 23 | Load offences | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 25 | Miscellaneous motoring offences | 4 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | — |
| | Total | 16,243 | 16,602 | 17,494 | 17,792 | 18,460 | 16,213 | 13,681 | 10,778 | 8,818 | 7,276 |

[1] Offence groups are shown only where data have been reported within the period given.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. [3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Driving Offences: Disqualification

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Torbay constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England were disqualified from driving as a result of an offence of (i) drink-driving, (ii) speeding and (iii) dangerous or reckless driving in each of the last 10 years. [313334]

**Claire Ward:** The number persons disqualified from driving as a result of convictions for (i) drink driving, (ii) speeding and (iii) dangerous or careless driving in the South West and England in each of the last 10 years is shown in tables 1 and 2 as follows.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn 2010.

*Table 1: Disqualifications imposed at all courts in the South West Government office region[1], for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2008[2,3]*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Dangerous driving | 376 | 345 | 356 | 334 | 407 | 494 | 492 | 415 | 339 | 316 | 291 |
| Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 7,596 | 7,563 | 7,124 | 7,222 | 7,556 | 8,132 | 8,056 | 7,316 | 7,380 | 7,114 | 6,411 |
| Careless driving | 105 | 129 | 128 | 196 | 181 | 192 | 200 | 193 | 195 | 189 | 137 |
| Speed limit offences | 1,564 | 1,680 | 1,833 | 2,067 | 1,959 | 2,391 | 1,908 | 1,670 | 1,655 | 1,307 | 1,155 |

*Table 1: Disqualifications imposed at all courts in the South West Government office region[1], for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2008[2, 3]*

*Number*

| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 9,641 | 9,717 | 9,441 | 9,819 | 10,103 | 11,209 | 10,656 | 9,594 | 9,569 | 8,926 | 7,994 |

[1] Includes: Avon and Somerset police force area; Devon and Cornwall police force area; Dorset police force area; Gloucestershire police force area; Wiltshire police force area.

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

*Note:*

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 2: Disqualifications imposed at all courts in England, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2008[1, 2, 3]*

*Number*

| *Offence type* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004*[4] | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dangerous driving: | 4,570 | 4,269 | 4,225 | 4,116 | 5,071 | 6,220 | 6,177 | 5,256 | 4,914 | 4,675 | 4,150 |
| Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs: | 80,332 | 77,827 | 74,697 | 73,685 | 79,310 | 81,139 | 84,669 | 81,107 | 81,461 | 78,503 | 70,179 |
| Careless driving: | 1,423 | 1,445 | 1,478 | 1,861 | 2,026 | 1,988 | 2,240 | 2,164 | 2,085 | 2,232 | 1,770 |
| Speed limit offences | 11,565 | 11,551 | 10,695 | 10,951 | 8,739 | 9,330 | 9,582 | 9,875 | 8,977 | 7,917 | 6,502 |
| Total | 97,890 | 95,092 | 91,095 | 90,613 | 95,146 | 98,677 | 102,668 | 98,402 | 97,437 | 93,327 | 82,601 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] Figures given include revised figures for Sussex police force area.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Electorate: British Nationals Abroad

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons entitled to vote in each parliamentary constituency are registered as resident abroad. [316404]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 9 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many persons reported to vote in each parliamentary constituency are registered as resident abroad. (316404)

ONS has data, collected by local authorities, on the number of UK citizens resident overseas who are registered to vote in parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom. However it is not possible to distinguish those who actually voted.

## Funding Certificates

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals regarding decisions on funding certificates have been referred to a review panel comprising more than one member in each of the last five years. [315708]

**Bridget Prentice:** A review panel is an independent body made up of solicitors and barristers from which adjudicators, assessors and committees are appointed to review decisions made by LSC staff in regional offices.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

## Legal Aid: Brighton

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid funding have been referred to the Special Cases Unit in Brighton in each of the last five years; and how many of those were *(a)* accepted, *(b)* refused and *(c)* referred to the adjudicator in each such year. [315711]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Special Cases Unit does not necessarily only receive applications for funding. Funded cases are also transferred to SCU when the referral criteria are met. Only since 2007 have all SCU's cases been recorded to SCU specifically. The figures from that point are reported in the table. Because of the transfer of cases these figures do not relate directly to Committee or Adjudicator decisions of applications.

|  | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 6,893 |
| 2008-09 | 6,303 |

## Legal Services Commission

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many new housing matters were started by the Legal Services Commission in 2008-09; and how many have been started in 2009-10 to date; [315650]

(2) what proportion of all applications for *(a)* civil representations and *(b)* legal help in 2008-09 were related to housing; [315651]

(3) how many applications for acts of assistance relating to housing the Legal Services Commission (LSC) received in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 to date; how many such applications were accepted; and what percentage of the total number of requests to the LSC each figure represents. [315653]

**Bridget Prentice:** Legal aid in civil matters is provided at two levels, Controlled Work and Licensed Work:

Controlled Work, also known as legal help, covers basic levels of advice and representation, not including representation in court. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) allocates specific volumes of New Matter Starts to providers. An act of assistance is each instance in which a provider gives legal help to a client, including face to face and telephone advice (New Matter Start) and there is no need for providers to apply to the LSC for each case.

Licensed Work, also known as civil representation, accounts for all other types of civil work, with the exception of Very High Cost Cases, which are managed under specialist contracts. Funding applications need to be submitted to the LSC for each case. The LSC decides whether funding criteria and the merits test are met. Funding limits in relation to the work are then set, which may be varied on application by the client.

Legal aid providers contract with the LSC to undertake an agreed number of new matter starts in legal help within specific categories of law. The numbers of applications for legal help are unknown because they are received and assessed directly by the legal services provider. Therefore, while the LSC can determine the number of matters started within a certain category of law, such as housing, it cannot determine how many applications have been made. Table A shows the numbers of housing new matter starts for legal help.

The numbers of applications for civil representation are shown in Table B.

*Table A: Legal help new matters started figures*

| | *1 April to 30 November 2009* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| Housing new matters started (NMS) | 75,129 | 111,244 |
| Housing CLA telephone advice[1] | 18,863 | 26,450 |
| Housing NMS— CLACs[2] | 1,841 | 2,077 |
| Housing court duty scheme[3] | 21,866 | 33,842 |
| Total housing NMS | 117,699 | 173,613 |
| Total NMS (all categories) | 671,740 | 927,654 |
| Total (percentage) | 17.5 | 18.7 |

[1] Community Legal Advice telephone service—providing help on a range of civil categories for eligible clients.

[2] Community Legal Advice Centres—LSC and local authority commissioned centres, providing integrated face to face advice in housing, debt, welfare benefits, employment, community care and family.

[3] Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme—available in most county courts in England and Wales providing free on the day advice and representation to individuals at risk of losing their home.

*Note:*

Many of these figures can be found in the statistical information packs published on the LSC website:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/strategic_publications.asp

*Table B: Civil representation housing applications*

| | *Civil representation* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *1 April to 30 November 2009* | *2008-09* |
| Applications | 10,601 | 15,559 |
| Certificates issued[1] | 8,668 | 12,628 |
| Percentage of total applications (all categories) | 7.7 | 8.5 |

[1] The certificates issued may not directly relate to the applications received, as there may be a time lag between when an application is received and when a certificate is granted.

## Legal Services Commission

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission spent on acts of assistance relating to housing in each of the last five years; and how much has been spent in 2009-10 to date on applications for acts of assistance. [315652]

**Bridget Prentice:** For so called "Controlled Work" (which includes legal help and general advice and assistance), legal aid providers are paid a standard monthly payment in the first instance, which is not split by category of law. Once a case has been completed, the provider submits a claim to the LSC. Before the introduction of the Unified Contract in April 2007, solicitors were paid hourly rates and not-for-profit providers were paid in advance for hours agreed in their contract and the monthly data related to the number of cases started and finished as opposed to their cost. Since the introduction of a standard fixed fee payment regime in October 2007 it has been possible to provide figures for the cost of claims for all providers for 2008-09 to date.

| | *1 April to 30 November 2009* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| *Housing claims* | | |
| Volume | 75,100 | 107,100 |
| Value (£ million) | 15.0 | 22.2 |
| *Community Legal Advice telephone line* | | |
| Volume | 18,900 | 26,400 |
| Value (£ million) | 2.5 | 2.7 |
| *Housing Duty Solicitor Scheme* | | |
| Volume | 21,900 | 33,800 |
| Value (£ million) | 2.2 | 3.3 |

The cost of civil representation for housing matters closed from 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 and each of the previous five years is shown in the following table.

| | *Cases completed*[1] | *Expenditure (£ million)*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 | 7,100 | 17.9 |
| 2008-09 | 11,300 | 28.4 |
| 2007-08 | 11,200 | 26.6 |
| 2006-07 | 10,600 | 25.4 |
| 2005-06 | 11,000 | 25.7 |
| 2004-05 | 11,400 | 26.9 |

[1] The figures relate to cases closed during the period.

[2] The figures show costs to the LSC and exclude certain cases including: cases that were settled and where the other party agreed to pay some or all of the costs; cases where the solicitor later reported that there was no longer a claim; cases where certificates were revoked due to an applicant failing to pay contributions or was found to be ineligible for legal aid following a reassessment of income and; cases where the total cost of the case equalled the same as the initial payment on account to the provider or the cost was less than £10. The figure represents gross spend excluding income.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure has been incurred on *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* expenses for each adjudicator appointed by the Brighton office of the Legal Services Commission in each of the last five years. [315709]

**Bridget Prentice:** The expenditure on Independent Funding Adjudicators, the former Funding Review Committee and the Multi-Party Action Committee for the Special Cases Unit, of which one part operates from Brighton, over the past five years was:

| | *(£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 34,330 |
| 2005-06 | 30,525 |
| 2006-07 | 23,863 |
| 2007-08 | 27,689 |
| 2008-09 | 22,733 |

The present remuneration rates for the members of LSC Committees are:

Chair half-day £180.85, full day £361-70; Member half-day £143.55, full day £287.10. Single adjudicators receive the payment rate for a chair of a Committee. SCU pay pro-rata rates for hours worked and this includes preparatory reading for meetings.

Specific information on the remuneration of all the individuals involved in this work is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals to a Legal Services Commission adjudicator have been *(a)* upheld and *(b)* rejected in each of the last five years. [315710]

**Bridget Prentice:** Single independent funding adjudicators were introduced in October 2006. Prior to that the reviews were decided by funding review committees.

The information is not held centrally for the last five years and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the period January to December 2009 determinations by single independent adjudicators were: (a) 41 upheld the clients' review in part or full, (b) 194 dismissed. In the same period determinations by committees of independent funding adjudicators were: (a) five upheld the clients review in part or full, (b) 37 dismissed. These reviews covered applications, amendments and discharges of funding.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long the adjudicator for the Legal Services Commission (LSC) has to give their decision in respect each matter referred to them; what steps the LSC takes to monitor the performance of adjudicators; who in the LSC monitors the performance of adjudicators; how many complaints about delay have been raised by the LSC with adjudicators in the last five years; and what the outcome was in each case. [315731]

**Bridget Prentice:** The LSC aims to complete reviews promptly from the date of receipt.

For the Special Cases Unit it is typical for the adjudicators to provide their decision within 14 days. SCU will chase a response if a decision has not been provided within four weeks.

Complaints records are not kept for five years. Between January and December 2009 the SCU has recorded three complaints about delays in determining reviews. These three complaints were found to be justified and were resolved by apologising to the complainant and actioning the review. The Commission has not raised complaints with adjudicators.

### Organised Crime: Immigration

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of an offence relating to organised immigration crimes in each year since 1998. [314742]

**Claire Ward:** Organised immigration crimes do not exist as specific offences. Immigration and criminal offences are incorporated within Immigration Acts and other statutes. Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not record specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought.

### Prisoners Release

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 864W, on prisoners release, from which prisons were prisoners released in error in 2009. [315482]

**Maria Eagle:** The following tables show the breakdown of releases in error by prison and court areas in England and Wales. These figures cover the period between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009.

The majority of prisoners released in error are returned to custody quickly. They are usually unaware of the error and make no attempt to evade the police.

*Table 1: Releases in error from prisons in England and Wales for 2009*

| *Establishment* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Acklington | 1 |
| Altcourse | 4 |
| Belmarsh | 2 |
| Brinsford | 1 |
| Bristol | 3 |
| Brixton | 2 |
| Bullingdon | 1 |
| Chelmsford | 1 |
| Dovegate | 1 |
| Durham | 2 |
| Elmley | 1 |
| Gloucester | 1 |
| Haslar | 1 |
| Haverigg | 1 |
| Highdown | 2 |
| Leeds | 1 |
| Lewes | 2 |
| Liverpool | 1 |
| Low Newton | 1 |
| Manchester | 1 |
| New Hall | 1 |

*Table 1: Releases in error from prisons in England and Wales for 2009*

| *Establishment* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Nottingham | 1 |
| Onley | 2 |
| Pentonville | 1 |
| Peterborough | 2 |
| Preston | 1 |
| Reading | 1 |
| Standford Hill | 2 |
| Swansea | 1 |
| The Mount | 1 |
| Winchester | 3 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 1 |
| Wymott | 1 |
| Total | 48 |

*Table 2: Release in errors from court areas in England and Wales for 2009*

| *Court area* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| East | 2 |
| London and South East | 2 |
| North | 1 |
| South Wales and West | 1 |
| Total | 6 |

*Note:*

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The number of releases in error reported for 2009 may change should further incidents be reported.

## Prisons: Mobile Phones

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the cost of installing a mobile telephone blocker in every prison; and what plans his Department has for their installation in every prison. [312926]

**Maria Eagle:** National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is currently trialling mobile phone signal blocking technology. Given commercial sensitivity and the fact that pilot projects are testing various technologies, I am unable to provide details of the potential cost of installing a mobile phone blocker in all prisons.

As agreed in the Government response to the Blakey report, NOMS will seek to deploy further blockers once the technology has been shown to be effective in prison conditions and as funding allows.

## Referendums: Costs

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the cost of holding a referendum. [316336]

**Mr. Straw:** Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 the Electoral Commission is responsible for the conduct of referendums.

The Government have not made a detailed estimate of the likely cost of holding a referendum. We have previously said that, as a guide, we expect the cost of running a UK-wide referendum to be similar to the cost of a general election. In 2005 the general election cost something in excess of £80 million.

There are however, a number of key differences between the running of a general election and the running of a referendum—for example, the role of the Electoral Commission and the entitlements to send communications to voters—and as such the cost of a UK-wide referendum would not be exactly the same as a general election.

## Robbery: Convictions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group were convicted of robbery in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 1998. [314996]

**Claire Ward:** The number of people convicted of robbery in Greater London and England and Wales in each age group for 1998 to 2008 (latest available) are shown in the following table:

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for robbery offences, by age group, from 1998 to 2008*[1, 2, 3]

*Greater London*

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of offence, sex and age group* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Robbery offences* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Persons* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 to 11 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| 12 to 14 | 94 | 94 | 146 | 240 | 192 | 190 | 240 | 233 | 384 | 498 | 497 |
| 15 to 17 | 495 | 495 | 558 | 743 | 669 | 592 | 761 | 870 | 1,141 | 1,282 | 1,063 |
| 18 to 20 | 309 | 300 | 276 | 303 | 346 | 318 | 330 | 310 | 417 | 495 | 469 |
| 21 and over | 459 | 519 | 473 | 485 | 726 | 736 | 692 | 539 | 629 | 641 | 709 |
| Total | 1,358 | 1,411 | 1,456 | 1,776 | 1,937 | 1,838 | 2,032 | 1,955 | 2,579 | 2,927 | 2,748 |

*England and Wales*

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of offence, sex and age group* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Robbery offences* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Persons* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 to 11 | 19 | 23 | 31 | 26 | 36 | 33 | 46 | 32 | 29 | 40 | 33 |
| 12 to 14 | 412 | 410 | 469 | 681 | 632 | 679 | 695 | 736 | 849 | 993 | 918 |
| 15 to 17 | 1,739 | 1,611 | 1,725 | 2,085 | 2,139 | 1,929 | 2,223 | 2,311 | 2,823 | 3,082 | 2,667 |
| 18 to 20 | 1,302 | 1,235 | 1,261 | 1,446 | 1,480 | 1,314 | 1,462 | 1,387 | 1,639 | 1,810 | 1,753 |
| 21 and over | 2,070 | 2,347 | 2,405 | 2,584 | 3,424 | 3,348 | 3,055 | 2,617 | 2,765 | 2,904 | 3,104 |

*England and Wales*

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of offence, sex and age group* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 5,542 | 5,626 | 5,891 | 6,822 | 7,711 | 7,303 | 7,481 | 7,083 | 8,105 | 8,829 | 8,475 |

[1] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Census

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 956W, on the Census, if she will place in the Library a copy of the data-sharing agreement with *(a)* Local Government Information House, *(b)* the Royal Mail and *(c)* Ordnance Survey. [315172]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking if a copy of the data-sharing agreement with (a) Local Government Information House, (b) the Royal Mail and (c) Ordnance Survey will be placed in the Library. (315172)

There are no plans to lay a copy of the data-sharing agreement in the House of Commons Library. However an electronic version of the agreement will be on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website shortly.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 951W, on the Census, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Information Commissioner's response on the privacy impact assessment. [315173]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, Official Report, column 951W on the Census, if a copy of the information commissioner's response on the privacy impact assessment will be placed in the Library. (315173)

The Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is a process developed by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and we had preliminary meetings with the ICO on the scope of the PIA. Their advice was to focus on those aspects of the 2011 Census which are new and have been introduced since the 2001 Census. They also offered suggestions about which privacy groups to speak to. Further guidance was obtained through their published handbook.

The Privacy Impact Assessment was published on the ONS website in November. We have had no response from the Information Commissioner to the published document.

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/commitment-to-confidentiality/index.html

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 951W, on Census, if she will place in the Library a copy of each written submission made to the Office for National Statistics on the Census by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [315174]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2009, Official Report, column 951W on Census, if a copy of each written submission made to the Office for National Statistics on the Census by the Equality and Human Rights Commission will be placed in the Library. (315174)

There are no plans to place in the Library copies of written submissions made by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (and the former bodies that have since been incorporated into it). Individual written submissions in response to the programme of consultation on census topics in 2005 are available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/closed-consultations/consultation-on-2011-census---responses/index.html

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) with reference to paragraph 4.76 of the Census 2001's General Report for England and Wales, if she will place in the Library a copy of each document drawn up on guidance and training on procedures for handling census non-compliance; [315219]

(2) how many non-compliance staff are planned for the Census 2011; and what estimate has been made of the cost of employing such staff. [315273]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (1) With reference to paragraph 4.76 of the Census 2001 General Report for England and Wales, if a copy of each document drawn up on guidance and training on procedures for handling census non-compliance will be placed in the Library; (2) How many non-compliance staff are planned for the census 2011; and what estimate has been made of the cost of employing such staff. (315219 and 315273)

(1) There are no plans to place such documentation in the Library. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) considers any such guidance to be covered by legal and professional privilege, and that its publication may have a detrimental effect on ONS's public responsibilities and may adversely affect any potential prosecution undertaken in respect of anyone refusing to make a census return.

(2) Current estimations of the resources needed for the non-compliance stage of the 2011 Census are for up to 60 teams of

two people covering England and Wales managed by six non-compliance coordinators. It is expected that census non-compliance teams will be engaged full time for the first six months but that their involvement will taper off rapidly after this until only the occasional visit or court attendance is required during the following six months.

Initial estimates for costs of these staff over the entire census period are approximately £1.3 - £1.8 million. These costs are currently being reviewed.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the person response rate was in the 2001 Census in each local authority area; and what the estimated number of people is in each local authority area who did not respond. [315255]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the person response rate was in the 2001 Census in each local authority area; and what the estimated number of people is in each local authority area who did not respond. (315255)

Listing the response rates for each local authority area in England and Wales areas is not practical within this answer. However, response rates are accessible in a spreadsheet available through this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.Uk/census2001/annexb.asp#byarea

The spreadsheet is downloadable. Whilst it does not show the actual number or people in each local authority area that did not respond, the first column gives a percentage of those people within each of the local authority areas that did respond; this information is then broken down by age and gender.

To make sure the published census results are an accurate picture of the population, an independent survey—the Census Coverage Survey (CCS)—is carried out after the census. The households and people counted in the CCS are matched with those recorded in the census to allow Office for National Statistics (ONS) to estimate the number and the characteristics of people not included on a census questionnaire.

The results of the CCS are then used in conjunction with the Census results to ensure that the final published results are an accurate estimation of the population in England and Wales.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment has been made of the potential effect of a postal strike on the 2011 Census. [315265]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what assessment has been made of the potential effect of a postal strike on the 2011 Census. (315265)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has contracted the delivery and post back of census questionnaires to Royal Mail. Part of this contract requires Royal Mail to develop a number of contingency plans which can be put in place in the event of disruption to postal services during the 2011 Census. These plans are part of ONS's contractual arrangements with Royal Mail, and are therefore commercially confidential.

We have been able to test some of the Royal Mail contingency plans during the census rehearsal in Lancaster, Newham and Isle of Anglesey, as it took place during a period industrial action. There was no impact on the delivery of questionnaires and the measures put in place to avoid disruption to the rehearsal worked well. ONS would expect Royal Mail to handle any potential issues occurring during the time of the 2011 Census in a similarly effective manner.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements will apply to recording the details of guests at house parties on 2011 Census night. [315329]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what arrangements will apply to recording the details of guests at house parties on 2011 Census night. (315329)

As explained in my answer to your similar question (Official Report column 957W 3 December 2009), as in previous censuses (but with the exception of 2001) in addition to recording information for all usual residents at an address on census night, householders are required to record any non-resident persons present on census night, including house party guests if they stay overnight. In 2011, four questions will be asked about overnight visitors—name, sex, date of birth, usual address. In censuses taken before 2001, overnight visitors were required to answer the full range of census questions.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the UK had at least one (i) edit and (ii) imputation made to their record in the 2001 Census. [315334]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking: i) how many and what proportion of people in (a) England and Wales and (b) the UK had at least one (i) edit and (ii) imputation made to their record in the 2001 Census. (315334)

a) An Edit and Donor Imputation System (EDIS) was devised for the 2001 Census and applied to individual records to provide proxy data for any missing information from existing people and households.

(i) The base population for EDIS was 49.4 million people in England and Wales, including some 0.6 million students living away from home during term-time for whom only a few demographic and relationship questions applied at their home address. A total of 13.7 million edits were carried out on the data for some 11.8 million of these people. The eight most frequently executed edits accounted for 91 per cent of the total.

(ii) One or more data items needed to be imputed for 13.8 million people—that is 28.0 per cent of the population who returned census questionnaires.

Detailed information about edit and imputation is available on the website

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/editimputevrep.asp

The Census 2001 Quality Report for England and Wales, published and laid before Parliament in 2005, includes information on edit and imputation. A copy of the report is thus available at the House of Commons Library and is also available on the National Statistics website through this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/proj_qr.asp

b) Censuses in Scotland and Northern Ireland are responsibility of the Registrars General for the General Register Office Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency respectively.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the imputation rate in the 2001 Census for *(a)* persons and *(b)* households was in each local authority area. [315338]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking what the imputation rate in the 2001 Census for (a) persons and (b) households was in each local authority area. (315338)

The numbers of people and households imputed in each local authority into the final 2001 Census counts were used to produce an imputation rate, analysed by a number of key variables. Listing the imputation rates for each local authority area in England and Wales is not practical within this answer. However, imputation rates by key variables for each local authority in England and Wales are accessible in a spreadsheet available through this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/imputation_rates_by_variable.asp

This spreadsheet is downloadable.

## Census: Communications

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many telephone calls were made to the 2001 Census helpline; how many were predicted before the line became operational; and what assessment was made of the adequacy of the capacity of the line; [315330]

(2) how many emails were sent to the email help system in the 2001 Census; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time taken to respond was. [315335]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (1) how many telephone calls were made to the 2001 Census helpline; how many were predicted before the line became operational; and what assessment was made of the adequacy of the capacity of the line; (2) How many emails were sent to the email help system in the 2001 Census; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time taken to respond to them was. (315330 and 315335)

The 2001 Census Helpline in England and Wales received 2,629,455 calls, with some 240,000 calls received on 23 April alone. Experience of previous census helplines had suggested that the number of calls would be much lower; for example, the 1991 Census helpline had received 125,000 calls prior to Census Day and a further 85,000 subsequently. For the 2001 Census, initial estimates predicted the expected number of calls in England and Wales at 375,000. When it became apparent that the volume of calls being received was far in excess of expectations, the number of telephone lines was increased to 1,000 with an additional 50 operators.

For the 2001 Census in England and Wales the email help system received 16,399 emails. It is not possible to provide average and maximum response times to these emails as these data no longer exist. It was realised at the time that it would not be possible to answer all email queries immediately and the system was designed so that an automatic reply was sent informing the questioner that their query would be answered within 24 hours. However, priority was given to telephone calls and during the unprecedented deluge of calls to the telephone helpline it was not always possible to adhere to the 24 hour deadline. Those emails with more complex issues which had to be escalated to specialist staff for a response were also not always replied to within the 24 hour deadline.

## Census: EU Law

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what Census datasets the Government is required to provide to the European Commission. [315253]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what Census datasets the Government is required to provide to the European Commission. (315253)

The classifications for the statistical outputs from the 2011 Census to be provided to the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) under the provision of Article 7 (1) (a) of Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council on population and housing censuses, which came into force on 9 July 2008, were prescribed in a subsequent implementing Regulation (EC) 201/2009, which came into force on 30 March 2009. The draft of a further implementing Regulation setting out the details of the statistical programme of data to be made available to Eurostat is being submitted for approval by the European Statistical Systems Committee at its next meeting on 11 February.

Copies of EU Regulations are available from the House of Commons Library.

## Census: Homelessness

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how homeless people were counted in the 2001 Census; how many homeless people were counted; and how homeless people will be counted in the 2011 Census. [315333]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how homeless people were counted in the 2001 Census; how many homeless people were counted; and how homeless people will be counted in the 2011 Census. (315333)

In the 2001 Census initial liaison took place with the Rough Sleepers Unit of the then Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions to explore the potential for them to assist and advise in counting persons sleeping rough. Some information on particular areas where there were known to be persons sleeping rough was obtained through this contact. Additionally every local authority within England and Wales was contacted for geographical information on persons sleeping rough and contact was made with organisations such as the National Homeless Alliance and Shelter from which volunteers were sought to help conduct the enumeration. The count of rough sleepers was held on census night between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours the following morning. For each location containing one or more rough sleepers, the enumerators completed a communal establishment questionnaire, which had a specific category for rough sleepers and which provided an address to link the individuals to. The enumerators then either asked rough sleepers to complete their own individual questionnaire, or tried to gather basic demographic information to do this on the individual's behalf.

The total number of rough sleepers recorded in the 2001 Census in England and Wales was 938.

For the 2011 Census we are still researching the best methodology to use for counting people sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on the streets, or in doorways, parks or bus shelters); and people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, or stations. We have liaised with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) who are now responsible for overseeing work on this issue. We have also been in touch with local authorities who are required to conduct their own annual counts if they have more than ten rough sleepers to learn how they carry out their counts to see whether any successful procedures used by them could be used or modified.

Hostels or night shelters which have homeless people staying will be enumerated as Communal Establishments (CEs). CE managers will get a questionnaire to complete containing basic questions on the accommodation type and including a headcount of all visitors staying there on census night. However, anyone staying at the establishment who has no usual residence elsewhere would also be expected to complete an individual questionnaire, including any non UK residents who intend to stay in the country for three months or more. The individual questionnaire contains the complete set of census questions that would normally be completed by household residents.

Local census field managers will contact hostels and night shelters several weeks before the census to make arrangements and assess any requirements for special supplies such as literacy aids or translations. The questionnaires will then be delivered just before census day by a special enumerator. The CE manager is responsible for getting everything completed on census night. The special enumerator will then return and collect the questionnaires by hand shortly after census day.

## Census: ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the limit is on the number of users who will be able to use the Census online system at any one time. [315274]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the limit is on the number of users who will be able to use the Census online system at any one time. (315274)

The Office for National Statistics estimates that up to 25 per cent. of people will use the online option. We expect many of these to complete an online questionnaire before or after census day itself and expect the peak of usage to be during the evening of 27 March 2011. We are still reviewing, with our contractors, the best way of supporting the maximum number of concurrent users possible; therefore the actual maximum number of users that could use the system at one time is not yet finalised. However, should there be more users wanting to use the online system at any one time than it is capable of accommodating, those people already in the system will be able to carry on as normal, and additional users will be asked to try again later.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what checks were carried out by the Office for National Statistics on the accuracy of the optical data capture exercise in the 2001 Census. [315337]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what checks were carried out by the Office for National Statistics on the accuracy of the optical data capture exercise in the 2001 Census. (315337)

The 2001 Census scanning system used Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to lift information from 2001 Census questionnaires. An automated coding system was used for responses that required translation from a textual response into a numerical code. Responses not able to be coded automatically were coded manually. An automatic quality assurance system was incorporated within the data capture and coding subsystems, and these checks assessed whether quality standards were being met. Quality standards were measured continuously throughout data processing. The overall results for each of these standards were:

| *Item* | *Accuracy standard* | *Percentage Accuracy achieved* |
|---|---|---|
| OMR | 99.3 | 99.84 |
| OCR Alpha | 96.0 | 99.03 |
| OCR Alpha numeric | 95.0 | 98.99 |
| OCR Numeric | 98.0 | 99.75 |
| Date of Birth | 99.5 | 99.93 |
| Form Identity | 99.995 | 99.68 |
| Country of Birth | 96.0 | 99.80 |
| Ethnic Group | 96.0 | 98.60 |
| Religion | 96.0 | 98.80 |
| Industry | 88.0 | 89.10 |
| Occupation | 88.0 | 91.10 |
| Enumeration | 100.0 | 99.30 |
| Workplace | 94.5 | 94.30 |
| Address 1 year Ago | 96.5 | 98.10 |

*Key:*

OMR—Optical Mark Recognition

OCR—Optical Character Recognition

*Notes:*

1. The coding results above relate only to textual responses.
2. Where the answer could have been a tick box, these are included in the OMR results.

Full information on accuracy and data quality are available in the published Census 2001 Quality Report for England and Wales ISBN 1-4039-8769-6 and laid before Parliament in 2005 and which is also available on the website through this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/proj_gr.asp

## Census: Lost Property

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the proportion and number of completed Census questionnaires that were lost by Royal Mail in the 2001 Census. [315256]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion and number of completed census questionnaires that were lost by Royal Mail in the 2001 Census. (315256)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is not aware of Royal Mail having lost any questionnaires in 2001 and was satisfied with the strict security measures maintained by Royal Mail in their handling of census questionnaires.

ONS acknowledges that there were some sporadic instances of questionnaires being delivered to the processing site later than originally intended, due to, for example, backlogs in Royal Mail's delivery process.

The post back of questionnaires using Royal Mail in 2001 worked effectively overall, which led to the decision for the 2011 Census to both post questionnaires out and allow respondents to post them back, using Royal Mail.

For the 2011 Census a new Questionnaire Tracking System has been developed which will track questionnaires throughout the census using barcodes and scanning equipment.

### Census: Security

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps are being taken to prevent phishing attacks related to the 2011 Census. [315267]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps are being taken to prevent phishing attacks related to the 2011 Census. (315267)

The primary mechanism for phishing attacks is email and the 2011 Census will not be sending any unsolicited emails to the public or emails asking the public to supply any personal details, click on links to any websites (including the official census website) or to verify any login credentials. This message will be clearly displayed on the census website. The census website will also provide advice and guidance to the public on the threat of phishing attacks, how to reduce the risk of phishing attacks and the steps to take in the event of a suspected phishing attack.

The official census website address is memorable and will be clearly printed on the census forms. As a precaution, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will also be defensively registering a range of similar website addresses and will be monitoring for rogue websites to reduce the risk from imitation census websites appearing in popular search engines.

### Census: Travelling People

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what means will be used to collect 2011 Census forms from *(a)* Travellers and *(b)* people in travelling fairs. [315263]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what means will be used to collect 2011 Census forms from (a) travellers and (b) people in travelling fairs.(315263)

We are making special preparations to enumerate Gypsies, Travellers and people in travelling fairs and in developing the plans we are working closely with local authority Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers, as well as with Gypsy and Traveller community groups.

Travellers, Gypsies and people in travelling fairs will be counted by special enumerators who are trained to liaise successfully with these groups. Advance information about traveller sites will be gathered including any requirements for help with literacy or sight or hearing impairment issues. Authorised sites will be visited as pre-arranged with the site manager to hand deliver questionnaires. Transit sites and any temporary roving caravans, travelling fairs and circuses will also be visited to complete both delivery and collection of questionnaires.

Following face-to-face meetings with a number of Roma and Romani community leaders and support organisations, plus direct meetings with representations of Travellers and Gypsy communities, we are planning to recruit directly from those communities to help overcome issues of literacy, language and concerns about confidentiality. The community leaders themselves have also offered to support our Census awareness campaign. We are continuing through the community liaison programme to improve contact with Gypsy and Traveller groups.

The proposed 2011 Census ethnic group question includes for the first time a specific category for 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'. A write-in option is also available for those Travellers who may wish to identify themselves in any other way.

### Chief Information Officer: Government Communications

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Communications Manager in the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and Senior Information Risk Owner will be a member of the Government Communications Network. [315325]

**Angela E. Smith:** The post of Communications Manager within the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and Senior Information Risk Owner was recently advertised and an offer of employment made. The new incumbent is not yet in post.

When in post, the Communications Manager will be able to register with the Government Communication Network (GCN). GCN is a virtual, online network and resource open to all civil servants who have an interest in government communications.

### Death: Cancer

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many deaths from *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* heart disease were caused by alcohol in the last year for which figures are available; [316280]

(2) how many deaths from cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus and *(c)* larynx were caused by alcohol in the last year for which figures are available; [316293]

(3) how many deaths from breast cancer were caused by alcohol in the last year for which figures are available. [316348]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1) How many deaths from (a) breast cancer and (b) heart disease were caused by alcohol in the last year for which figures are available. (316280)

2) How many deaths from cancer of the (a) mouth, (b) oesophagus and (c) larynx were caused by alcohol in the last year for which figures are available. (316293)

3) How many deaths from breast cancer were caused by alcohol in the last year for which figures are available. (316348)

It is not possible to provide figures for the number of deaths where (a) breast cancer, (b) heart disease, (c) cancer of the mouth, (d) cancer of the oesophagus or (e) cancer of the larynx was the underlying cause of death, and which were caused by alcohol, from the information collected at death registration.

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not required to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement. Lifestyle and behavioural factors, such as the deceased's alcohol consumption, are not recorded.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many deaths from cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus and *(c)* larynx there were in the last year for which figures are available; [316292]

(2) many deaths from breast cancer there were in the last year for which figures are available. [316294]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

(1) How many deaths from cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus and *(c)* larynx there were in the last year for which figures are available. (316292)

(2) How many deaths from breast cancer there were in the last year for which figures are available. (316294)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus, *(c)* larynx, and *(d)* breast was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, in 2008 (the latest year available).

*Table 1. Number of deaths where cancer of the mouth, oesophagus, larynx and breast was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2008*[1, 2, 3]

| *Cause of death* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Cancer of the mouth | 418 |
| Cancer of the oesophagus | 6,609 |
| Cancer of the larynx | 715 |
| Breast cancer | 10,779 |

1 Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C03-C06 (cancer of the mouth), C15 (cancer of the oesophagus), C32 (cancer of the larynx) and C50 (breast cancer).

2 Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

3 Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Death: Liver Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths from *(a)* liver cancer and *(b)* other liver disease there have been in (i) England and (ii) each parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. [315907]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in how many deaths from (a) liver cancer and (b) other liver disease there have been in (i) England and (ii) each constituency in each year since 1997. (315907)

The tables provide the number of deaths with an underlying cause of (a) liver cancer (table 1) and (b) liver diseases (table 2) in (i) England and (ii) each English parliamentary constituency, from 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available). Copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths from *(a)* chronic liver disease and *(b)* cirrhosis there were in the last 12 months; and in how many such cases alcohol was listed on the death certificate. [316279]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from (a) chronic liver disease and (b) cirrhosis there were in the last 12 months; and in how many such cases alcohol was listed on the death certificate. (316279)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of (a) chronic liver disease and (b) cirrhosis, and the number of cases where alcohol is also mentioned on the death certificate as a contributing factor, in England and Wales, for 2008 (the latest year available).

Since cirrhosis is defined as a chronic liver disease, all deaths from cirrhosis are included in the figures for chronic liver disease.

*Table 1. Numbers of deaths with an underlying cause of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis*[1]*, and the number mentioning alcohol as a contributing factor*[2]*, England and Wales*[3]*, 2008*[4]

| | | *Deaths (persons)* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Chronic liver disease* | *Cirrhosis* |
| Underlying cause | 6,514 | 2,510 |
| With mention of alcohol | 4,797 | 1,835 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.

[2] Deaths were categorised as alcohol mentions where the underlying cause was chronic liver disease or cirrhosis and one of the ICD-10 codes listed in the box below was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2008.

*Box 1. Chronic liver disease, Cirrhosis and Alcohol mentions—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| | *ICD-10 code(s)* |
|---|---|
| *Chronic Liver Disease* | |
| Chronic viral hepatitis | B18 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Toxic liver disease | K71.3—K71.9 |
| Chronic hepatic failure and hepatic failure unspecified | K72.1—K72.9 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3—K74.5) |
| *Cirrhosis* | |
| Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver | K70.3 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3—K74.5) |
| *Alcohol mentions* | |
| Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome | E24.4 |
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic myopathy | G72.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Alcohol-induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Finding of alcohol in blood | R78.0 |
| Toxic effect of alcohol | T51 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

## Death: Respiratory Disease

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of children aged *(a)* one to four and *(b)* five to 14 years (i) in total and (ii) as a result of respiratory disease there were in England and Wales in each month since 2006. [316441]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of children aged *(a)* one to four and *(b)* five to 14 years (i) in total and (ii) as a result of respiratory disease there were in England and Wales in each month since 2006. (316441)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths of children aged *(a)* 1 to 4 years and *(b)* 5 to 14 years for (i) all causes (Table 1) and (ii) where respiratory diseases were the underlying cause of death (Table 2), in England and Wales, in each month, for 2006 to 2008 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Deaths of children aged one to four and five to 14 years, by month, England and Wales, 2006-08*[1, 2]

*Number*

| | *One to four* | | | *Five to 14* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| January | 55 | 46 | 45 | 68 | 58 | 51 |
| February | 57 | 63 | 36 | 63 | 59 | 49 |
| March | 44 | 56 | 49 | 61 | 66 | 53 |
| April | 53 | 41 | 39 | 68 | 60 | 53 |
| May | 48 | 54 | 41 | 51 | 62 | 56 |
| June | 50 | 43 | 48 | 61 | 47 | 48 |
| July | 34 | 34 | 40 | 69 | 49 | 56 |
| August | 32 | 40 | 29 | 56 | 62 | 47 |
| September | 27 | 40 | 35 | 56 | 51 | 40 |
| October | 35 | 43 | 42 | 61 | 51 | 40 |
| November | 46 | 48 | 47 | 48 | 44 | 56 |
| December | 64 | 48 | 55 | 66 | 66 | 41 |

[1] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar month and year.

*Table 2: Deaths of children aged one to four and five to 14 years, where respiratory diseases were the underlying cause of death, by month, England and Wales, 2006-08*[1, 2, 3]

*Number*

| | *One to four* | | | *Five to 14* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| January | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| February | 2 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 4 |
| March | 5 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| April | 5 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| May | 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| June | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| July | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| August | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| September | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| October | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| November | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| December | 11 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 3 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J00 to J99 (diseases of the respiratory system).
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar month and year.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many job vacancies in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Charity Commission and *(c)* the Central Office of Information were filled using external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315209]

**Angela E. Smith:** The number of job vacancies filled using external recruitment from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was *(a)* 88 at Cabinet Office *(b)* 85 at the Charity Commission and *(c)* 74 at the Central Office of Information.

## Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316458]

**Angela E. Smith:** There have been 36 staff that have had five or more periods of absence which have lasted less than five days in two or more of the last three calendar years.

## Employment: Merseyside

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many jobs there were in Merseyside *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [315995]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many jobs there were in Merseyside *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. (315995)

Estimates of the number of jobs in local areas are not available. As an alternative we have provided estimates of the number of people employed in Merseyside on the requested dates.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The number of persons resident in Merseyside employed in the March 1997 to February 1998 period was 522,000 and for the July 2008 to June 2009 period was 572,000.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

## Government Communications

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the eight principles of the Government Communication Network's Engage Strategic Communications Framework are. [315229]

**Tessa Jowell:** There are eight key principles to the Government Communication Network's Engage Strategic Communications Framework.

These identified in the Introduction to Engage booklet (2006) as:

1. Listening, consulting, understanding, questioning to obtain insight into people's motivations, needs and barriers.

2. Segmentation makes our communication more effective. Identifying people with distinctive shared needs, characteristics and beliefs gives a sharper focus to policy and communication.

3. Changing behaviour is often essential to policy delivery. We need to work with colleagues to help identify the interventions that will encourage change and develop communication that will support them, and really engage our audiences.

4. Propositions express policy in a way that makes sense to people we are targeting and gives them a clear understanding of what's in it for them or for society as a whole.

5. Reaching people in complex communication environments means that we must consider a wide range of media, channel and stakeholder options.

6. The best people experience is achieved when the views of the public are fed into all aspects of policy development and service delivery.

7. We need to collaborate with policy and service delivery partners and stakeholders if we are to improve communication and encourage effective engagement with our audiences.

8. Being open and accountable in all our communication and marketing activities, adhering to our civil service values of integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 702W, on Government communications, how many public sector employees are registered to access the Government Communication Network. [315276]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government Communications Network is a virtual, online network and resource open to all civil servants who have an interest in Government communications.

As of December 2009 there are 5,844 civil servants registered to the Government Communication Network website. These registrations include communications staff and other civil servants in no-communications roles.

These registrations include both those who work solely on Government communications and those civil servants who have registered for whom communications may only be part of their role or who wish to access specific best practice material.

## Government Departments: ICT

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the estimated monetary value is of the central Government information and communication technology contracts that are expected to be renewed or commissioned over the next two years. [312266]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

Details of ICT contracts across central Government are not held centrally. However, data on the IT expenditure since 2006 for those parts of the public sector represented on the Chief Information Officers' Council can be found in the Transformational Government Annual Reports using the following link.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/transformational_government.aspx

## Office for National Statistics: Contracts

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value is of the Office for National Statistics' 2011 Census contract with *(a)* Polestar, *(b)* UK Data Capture, *(c)* Cable and Wireless, *(d)* bss, *(e)* Logica, *(f)* Steria and *(g)* Lockheed Martin. [315266]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the monetary value is of the Office for National Statistics 2011 Census contract with *(a)* Polestar, *(b)* UK Data Capture, *(c)* Cable and Wireless, *(d)* bss, *(e)* Logica, *(f)* Steria and *(g)* Lockheed Martin. (315266)

The monetary value of the contract with *(g)* Lockheed Martin UK is approximately £150 million. Lockheed Martin UK has subcontracted a number of specialist activities to *(a)* Polestar, *(b)* UK Data Capture, *(c)* Cable and Wireless, *(d)* bss, *(e)* Logica and *(f)* Steria. These contracts are commercially confidential and I am unable therefore to supply details.

## Unemployment: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in East Sussex had been claiming the allowance for *(a)* up to three, *(b)* between three and six, *(c)* between six and 12 and *(d)* between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009. [315762]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in East Sussex had been claiming the allowance for (a) up to three, (b) between three and six, (c) between six and 12 and (d) between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009 (315762).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in each parliamentary constituency in East Sussex, by duration of the claim in each month since September 2009. Table 2 shows the percentage of all claimants in each constituency by duration of the claim for the same periods.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1—Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim*

| | September 2009 | | | | | October 2009 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total* |
| **Bexhill and Battle** | 615 | 305 | 335 | 120 | 1,405 | 635 | 305 | 315 | 150 | 1,435 |
| **Brighton, Kemptown** | 1,060 | 490 | 550 | 255 | 2,500 | 1,140 | 490 | 535 | 265 | 2,580 |
| **Brighton, Pavilion** | 1,375 | 480 | 575 | 275 | 2,840 | 1,325 | 515 | 565 | 290 | 2,830 |
| **Eastbourne** | 980 | 470 | 485 | 215 | 2,175 | 950 | 485 | 485 | 225 | 2,175 |
| **Hastings and Rye** | 1,195 | 780 | 765 | 350 | 3,140 | 1,325 | 715 | 800 | 375 | 3,280 |
| **Hove** | 1,065 | 560 | 460 | 245 | 2,475 | 1,080 | 515 | 465 | 265 | 2,470 |
| **Lewes** | 640 | 310 | 270 | 95 | 1,345 | 640 | 310 | 285 | 100 | 1,365 |
| **Wealden** | 600 | 265 | 265 | 70 | 1,215 | 570 | 250 | 265 | 80 | 1,175 |
| **Total** | 7,540 | 3,665 | 3,720 | 1,640 | 17,105 | 7,675 | 3,600 | 3,720 | 1,760 | 17,320 |

| | November 2009 | | | | | December 2009 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Total* |
| **Bexhill and Battle** | 625 | 300 | 295 | 160 | 1,410 | 650 | 295 | 285 | 180 | 1,450 |
| **Brighton, Kemptown** | 1,160 | 485 | 520 | 295 | 2,610 | 1,150 | 515 | 500 | 315 | 2,640 |
| **Brighton, Pavilion** | 1,290 | 560 | 515 | 315 | 2,830 | 1,185 | 640 | 480 | 330 | 2,790 |
| **Eastbourne** | 985 | 480 | 475 | 235 | 2,215 | 995 | 500 | 455 | 270 | 2,260 |
| **Hastings and Rye** | 1,420 | 655 | 835 | 445 | 3,425 | 1,465 | 705 | 850 | 490 | 3,585 |
| **Hove** | 1,095 | 545 | 490 | 275 | 2,560 | 1,035 | 540 | 500 | 280 | 2,515 |
| **Lewes** | 600 | 305 | 275 | 115 | 1,340 | 605 | 295 | 295 | 130 | 1,365 |
| **Wealden** | 560 | 235 | 245 | 95 | 1,150 | 520 | 265 | 225 | 115 | 1,150 |
| **Total** | 7,740 | 3,585 | 3,665 | 1,950 | 17,560 | 7,620 | 3,765 | 3,605 | 2,120 | 17,770 |

*Notes:*

1. Data rounded to nearest five.
2. Age and duration data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

*Table 2—Proportion of claimants of jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim*

*Percentage*

| | September 2009 | | | | October 2009 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| **Bexhill and Battle** | 44 | 22 | 24 | 9 | 44 | 21 | 22 | 10 |
| **Brighton, Kemptown** | 42 | 20 | 22 | 10 | 44 | 19 | 21 | 10 |
| **Brighton, Pavilion** | 48 | 17 | 20 | 10 | 47 | 18 | 20 | 10 |
| **Eastbourne** | 45 | 22 | 22 | 10 | 44 | 22 | 22 | 10 |
| **Hastings and Rye** | 38 | 25 | 24 | 11 | 41 | 22 | 24 | 12 |
| **Hove** | 43 | 23 | 19 | 10 | 44 | 21 | 19 | 11 |
| **Lewes** | 48 | 23 | 20 | 7 | 47 | 23 | 21 | 7 |
| **Wealden** | 49 | 22 | 22 | 6 | 48 | 21 | 23 | 7 |

*Percentage*

| | November 2009 | | | | December 2009 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| **Bexhill and Battle** | 44 | 21 | 21 | 11 | 45 | 20 | 20 | 12 |
| **Brighton, Kemptown** | 44 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 44 | 20 | 19 | 12 |
| **Brighton, Pavilion** | 46 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 42 | 23 | 17 | 12 |
| **Eastbourne** | 45 | 22 | 21 | 11 | 44 | 22 | 20 | 12 |
| **Hastings and Rye** | 41 | 19 | 24 | 13 | 41 | 20 | 24 | 14 |
| **Hove** | 43 | 21 | 19 | 11 | 41 | 22 | 20 | 11 |

| | November 2009 | | | | December 2009 | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Duration of claim* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* | *Up to 13 weeks* | *Over 13 weeks up to 26 weeks* | *Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks* | *Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks* |
| Lewes | 45 | 23 | 21 | 9 | 44 | 22 | 22 | 10 |
| Wealden | 49 | 21 | 21 | 9 | 45 | 23 | 20 | 10 |

*Note:*
Age and duration data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

## Unemployment: Lewes

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of unemployment was in Lewes constituency in each year since 1997. [315772]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of unemployment was in Lewes constituency in each year since 1997. (315772)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested geography are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the Lewes constituency for December 2009 and December of each year since 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1. Number of persons resident in Lewes parliamentary constituency claiming jobseeker's allowance*

| *As at December each year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,101 |
| 1998 | 1,019 |
| 1999 | 886 |
| 2000 | 743 |
| 2001 | 694 |
| 2002 | 748 |
| 2003 | 725 |
| 2004 | 691 |
| 2005 | 752 |
| 2006 | 758 |
| 2007 | 607 |
| 2008 | 1,091 |
| 2009 | 1,369 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 9 February 2010*

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Injuries

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provides to assist service personnel seriously injured in Afghanistan to return to work. [316411]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD is committed to giving seriously injured personnel every opportunity to maintain their military careers. All sick and injured personnel receive first-class medical care and rehabilitation to give them the best chance of doing so.

The Defence Medical Services already manage 15 regional rehabilitation units in the UK and Germany and 51 primary care rehabilitation facilities, in addition to our premier Defence medical rehabilitation centre at Headley Court. These units provide rapid access to assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders in order to return personnel to fitness in the most expeditious way. In addition to this, in August 2009 the MOD launched the Army recovery centre pathfinder at Erskine Home, Edinburgh. The concept behind the Army recovery capability (ARC) is to meet the need for injured and sick soldiers between or after the excellent clinical care they currently receive and it is intended that the ARC will help these soldiers to return to duty or to make a smooth transition to civilian life.

Those who are able to remain in the Services will continue to receive medical treatment from the Defence Medical Services as required. Suitable adaptations will be made to both working and service-provided living accommodation if necessary. Ongoing welfare support is also available from the individual's chain of command, through the single service welfare services, and from service charities. There is a range of roles open to individuals who are no longer capable of fulfilling their original employment. These can include office-based roles, training, and various supporting roles in units. We attach particular importance to the role of the rear party i.e. those that do not deploy with their unit but provide, for example, welfare support for the families. Those who are medically discharged are entitled to the full resettlement package. For the seriously injured the focus will be on identifying what opportunities are open to them and then on facilitating retraining and the acquisition of new skills to enable them to take up gainful employment. Single service resettlement staffs and the Career Transition Partnership provide advice on selecting training and other services that best support individual resettlement plans, be it MOD contract funded courses, Government agencies such as Remploy or charitable organisations like Portland College or Skill Force, or accessing civilian work attachments through commercial companies like Soldier On.

We shall be announcing further relevant initiatives shortly.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 20 most expensive properties were which were rented by members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in the last 12 months. [316390]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* As part of the MOD value for money programme, which I chair, the entitlements of MOD personnel, service and civilian, are being reviewed.

Substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) is rented from the private sector as a last resort in cases where suitable service family and single living accommodation, respectively, is not available.

Only 17 SSFA properties have been rented for the use of officers of 1-star rank (Brigadier and equivalent) and above in the last 12 months, the details of which are as follows:

| *Location* | *Rent per calendar month(£)* |
|---|---|
| London SW3 | 6,933.33 |
| London W2 | 6,054.60 |
| Northwood | 4,700.00 |
| Gerrards Cross | 4,280.00 |
| Warminster | 3,500.00 |
| Burford | 2,920.00 |
| Windsor | 2,800.00 |
| Twickenham | 2,500.00 |
| Bath | 2,000.00 |
| Warminster | 1,950.00 |
| Wilton | 1,926.00 |
| Wilton | 1.926.00 |
| Stirling | 1,725.00 |
| Edinburgh | 1,610.00 |
| Salisbury | 1,450.00 |
| Dunblane | 1,350.00 |
| Ulverston | 1,200.00 |

It should be noted that SSSA properties may accommodate more than one service person. Details of the 20 most expensive SSSA properties used by 1-star officers and above are as follows:

| *Location* | *Rent per calendar month (£)* |
|---|---|
| London SW10 | 2,383.33 |
| London SW1P | 2,301.25 |
| London SW1V | 1,950.00 |
| London SW1V | 1,690.00 |
| Bristol | 1,684.35 |
| London SW1P | 1,625.00 |
| London SW1P | 1,609.90 |
| London SW1A | 1,569.35 |
| London SW1V | 1,555.00 |
| London SW1V | 1,547.00 |
| London E14 | 1,516.66 |
| London SW1V | 1,516.66 |
| London W1K | 1,495.00 |
| London SW1V | 1,494.60 |

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's housing stock in Scotland was *(a)* void and *(b)* uninhabited in each of the last five years; and what the estimated monetary value of such properties is. [316512]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** While details of uninhabited service family accommodation (SFA) properties are not maintained separately, the Department does record those which are 'void' (not in use). According to the UK Defence Statistics, the following numbers of properties in Scotland were void in each of the last five years.

| | *Total number of SFA (to nearest hundred)* | *Number of void SFA (to nearest hundred)* | *Percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 3,800 | 700 | 18 |
| 2006 | 3,800 | 800 | 21 |
| 2007 | 3,500 | 800 | 23 |
| 2008 | 3,600 | 900 | 25 |
| 2009 | 3,200 | 600 | 18 |

These figures represent a snapshot on a given date, and it is therefore not possible to identify specific properties, for how long each was void and what the value was of each property. However, an assessment of a property's market value is usually only made for disposal purposes when it is surplus to defence requirements.

While a 'management margin' of voids will always be required to ensure houses are available for service families, the current number of voids is recognised as being too high and the Department is working hard to reduce this to 10 per cent. by 2012.

Although the figures for 2010 have not been finalised, the latest available information indicates that some 16 per cent. of homes worldwide are void.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on substitute accommodation in Scotland for *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* single living accommodation in each of the last five years. [316513]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** It will take more time to collate and verify the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation units in Scotland are awaiting demolition. [316514]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I can confirm that there are no Single Living Accommodation (SLA) or Service Family Accommodation (SFA) units in Scotland awaiting demolition.

## Chemical Weapons: Animals

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned tests involving biochemical weapons using animals in each of the last five years. [316351]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The UK is a state party to both the convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, commonly referred to as the chemical weapons convention (CWC), and the convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction, commonly referred to as the biological and toxin weapons convention (BTWC) or the biological weapons convention (BWC).

Therefore, the UK does not hold any chemical or biological weapons. However, in accordance with the conventions, the UK does maintain small quantities of chemical and biological warfare agents for research purposes to ensure that UK forces are adequately protected in the event that chemical or biological weapons are used against them. This research includes hazard assessment, the development of protective materials and the development of medical countermeasures. The research that supports hazard assessment and the development of medical countermeasures will by necessity involve the use of animals. It is UK policy to develop safe, licensed and efficacious medical countermeasures to chemical and biological agents that may pose a hazard to the UK or deployed UK forces overseas.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* pigs, *(b)* primates, *(c)* dogs and *(d)* goats were used in tests (i) conducted and (ii) commissioned by his Department in each of the last five years; [316352]

(2) how many animals have been used in tests *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned by his Department in each of the last five years. [316353]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** In accordance with UK legislation Dstl Porton Down submits annual returns to the Home Office detailing the number of procedures undertaken which involve the use of animals as defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

In the years 2005 to 2009 the annual returns to the Home Office, broken down by dog, goat, mouse, pigs and non-human primates are detailed in the following table together with the total numbers of animals used.

| | *Dogs* | *Goats* | *Mouse* | *Pig* | *Non-human primate* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 20,016 | 127 | 54 | 21,118 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 15,986 | 123 | 52 | 17,045 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 17,095 | 74 | 75 | 18,257 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0 | 10,404 | 113 | 55 | 11,380 |
| 2009 | 0 | 0 | 7698 | 96 | 149 | 8,168 |

## Departmental Research

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on research and development in respect of each technology sector in each year since 2004-05; and which five projects in each such year received the most funding. [314178]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Defence Research and Development (R and D) expenditure by both technology sector and individual project team is not held centrally and providing the information could be done only at disproportionate cost. I can however state the total net R and D expenditure each year since 2004-05. This information is as follows:

| | *£ billion* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2.19 |
| 2005-06 | 2.24 |
| 2006-07 | 2.12 |
| 2007-08 | 2.14 |

MOD R and D expenditure statistics are designated as having National Statistics status and as such the release of these figures is embargoed until their publication by the Office for National Statistics in late March. Therefore, the 2008-09 figures are not yet available. A complete time series detailing MOD R and D expenditure is published in UK Defence Statistics (Table 1.8). A copy is placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316460]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The total number of MOD civilian personnel who have had five or more periods of sick absence of less than five days in two or more of the calendar years 2006, 2007 and 2008 is 2,570. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Data for the calendar year 2009 are not yet available.

The MOD is committed to reducing sickness absence and occupational health advice and support is available to all employees and their line managers. Guidance and training is available to line managers on managing absence; we actively encourage the use of return to work interviews and have trigger points in place for the commencement of management action.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305897]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on overseas training must be incurred in accordance with the principles of the Treasury publications "Managing Public Money" and "Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money".

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [310242]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Training is provided to Ministers on a range of issues, including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

The MOD's internal media and communications training organisation has provided the following training sessions to Ministers:

*Training sessions*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 5 |
| 2008 | 11 |
| 2009 | 2 |

### Explosives: Animals

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animals have been used in tests involving explosives *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned by his Department in each of the last five years. [316354]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Dstl Porton Down undertakes the MOD research programme that involves the use of animals. In accordance with UK legislation all of the research projects that involve animals are reviewed and licenced by the Home Office and annual returns are submitted to the Home Office detailing the number of procedures undertaken which involve the use of animals as defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

In the last five years 119 pigs have been used in MOD research studies involving explosives; this is broken down as none in 2005, 25 in 2006, 19 in 2007, 40 in 2008 and 35 in 2009.

These research studies involving explosives have followed up on identified problems with prolonged pre-hospital. resuscitation following blast injury. The studies have included evaluation of the whole body trauma caused by various blast explosive injury in order to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of improved post-traumatic methodology. This research has led to significant advances in post-traumatic techniques such as reducing blood loss from major trauma and has saved many lives in the theatres of Iraq and Afghanistan. The advances made due to this research can be utilised both in theatre and civilian scenarios particularly if there are mass casualties and evacuation to hospital is delayed. This is one of the reasons why Dstl research involving the use of animals is published in the open literature where possible.

### Future Large Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current unit cost for the Airbus A400M agreed with EADS is. [316509]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

### Hotels

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on overnight accommodation for his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [316440]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Military Bases

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current estimated monetary value is of the property comprising *(a)* Naval Base Clyde, *(b)* Royal Marines Condor, *(c)* RAF Leuchars, *(d)* 2nd Division HQ Craigiehall, *(e)* Defence Estates Hebrides and *(f)* Fort George; and how much his Department plans to spend on redevelopment at each of these bases. [316518]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

It will take a little more time to collect and verify information relating to how much the Department plans to spend on redevelopment at each base. I will write to the hon. Member.

We are interpreting DE Hebrides as referring principally to Ministry of Defence sites at Benbecula and St. Kilda and a few other locations.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated monetary value is of the property comprising *(a)* HM Naval Base Devonport, *(b)* RAF Valley, *(c)* HM Naval Base Portsmouth, *(d)* RAF Marham, *(e)* RAF Brampton, *(f)* RAF Honington, *(g)* RAF Wittering, *(h)* RAF Wattisham, *(i)* RAF Northolt, *(j)* RAF High Wycombe, *(k)* RAF Brize Norton and *(l)* RAF Leeming; and how much his Department plans to spend on redevelopment at each of these bases. [316519]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

It will take a little more time to collect and verify information relating to how much the Department plans to spend on redevelopment at each base. I will write to the hon. Member.

### Official Visits

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met representatives of the Nordic Council; and what subjects were discussed. [316517]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have not met representatives of the Nordic Council in that forum. I regularly meet individual Defence Ministers of the Nordic Council of Ministers in multilateral fora such as NATO and the EU, and occasionally bilaterally. For example, I met my Danish counterpart, Søren Gade, at the NATO Istanbul Summit, 4-5 February 2010. All such discussions cover a range of subjects of mutual interest.

## WALES

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of his Department managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313846]

**Mr. Hain:** Nil.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many separate bookings at hotels graded at five star or above were made through the Expotel booking service by his Department in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost such bookings were made. [315545]

**Mr. David:** None.

### Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what payments were made by his Department to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315612]

**Mr. David:** The Wales Office has made one payment to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in January 2009 of £2,755.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### ICT

**Stephen Pound:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the outturn cost of the installation of Microsoft Vista. [315944]

**Nick Harvey:** It is not possible to separate the cost of installing Vista from other costs. As part of a wider refresh of the parliamentary ICT infrastructure, PICT has replaced or upgraded old hardware, the Windows 2000 operating system and Office 2003 for the House of Commons Administration. The rollout began in July 2009 and the total project cost of completing the hardware and desktop software replacement is £2,643,102 for the House of Commons. This includes licences to cover all Members of the Commons and their staff.

**Stephen Pound:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will establish the cost to the House Administration of ceasing the existing contract for the installation of Vista on all computers operated by the House of Commons Service. [316166]

**Nick Harvey:** Vista licences were included as an upgrade option in a general Microsoft licences agreement from 2004 to 2007. There is no cost saving to Parliament if Vista is not used. The cost of an upgrade of the operating system to Windows 7 is currently being investigated with Microsoft UK.

**Stephen Pound:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission plans to install Windows 7 in all computers operated by each department in the House of Commons Service. [316194]

**Nick Harvey:** Windows 7 was launched by Microsoft on 23 October 2009 and is being tested by PICT as a potential operating system for Members' equipment in the future. If the tests prove successful and if it can be financially justified, Windows 7 will be used when new equipment is issued to Members after the next election.

Testing will begin in October 2010 on the equipment of administrative staff to assess the impact of Windows 7 on parliamentary applications. At the same time alternative options, including the use of cloud-based services, will also be assessed.

### Members: Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 13 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 781, on Members: security, what methods of email encryption are compatible with hon. Members' computers; and if the Commission will make it its policy to provide a directory of encryption certificates used by hon. Members for the use of constituents seeking to encrypt their communications. [315614]

**Nick Harvey:** The House of Commons Commission does not release information relating to software configuration as to do so risks jeopardising the security of the parliamentary network. Members are welcome to consult PICT to find out what encryption software is available to them.

It is a matter for individual Members whether to make details of their encryption software available to their constituents.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA68, on Government departments: annual reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315609]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not publish an annual report on departmental communications.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316456]

**Ann McKechin:** All staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who as parent bodies have absence management policies that apply to those of their staff working in this office. We do not maintain a separate central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent bodies which publish their own sick absence statistics.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of any advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [316479]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not employ any staff directly. All staff in the Office are seconded from other Government Departments, mainly the Scottish Executive and Ministry of Justice. All staff have access to policies relating to stress recognition and management through their parent bodies.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315304]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Blaydon constituency since 2000 include:

£61,758 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Blaydon in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in the north-east in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£4,500 of Exchequer investment to the Blaydon constituency provided through Sport England for 2009 to 2010.

Almost £10 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the constituency since 1995.

The Blaydon constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Over a quarter of a million free swims taken in the north-east region since the Free Swimming programme was introduced.

A 6[illegible] per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since 1997. [314228]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Chorley constituency since 1997 include:

£19,434 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Chorley in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover has been completed in the North West region, and by 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£7,570 of Exchequer investment to the Chorley constituency provided through Sport England since 2002.

Almost £20 million of National lottery grants made to applications from the constituency since 1995.

The Chorley constituency has also benefitted from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the National lottery since 1997.

Over half a million free swims taken in the North West region since the Free Swimming programme was introduced.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Feltham

**Alan Keen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [316675]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Feltham and Heston constituency since 1997 include:

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Feltham and Heston in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£115,222,067 of Exchequer investment to the Feltham and Heston constituency provided through Sport England since 2004.

Over £6 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Feltham and Heston constituency since 1997.

A £163,000 repair grant offered by English Heritage in 2008-09.

The Feltham and Heston constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency.

This includes:

Over £13 million Arts Council England funding to projects in the London area £4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 400,000 free swims taken in the south east in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Gloucester

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent in Gloucester constituency since 1997; and which projects have been funded. [316004]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Gloucester constituency since 1997 include:

£111,100 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Gloucester in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Gloucester in April 2010. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£938,706 of Exchequer investment to the Gloucester constituency provided through Sport England between 2002-03 and 2009-10.

Over £46 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Gloucester constituency since 1997.

The Gloucester constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Over 400,000 free swims taken in the south west in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316307]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Hemsworth constituency since 2000 include:

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Hemsworth in 2011. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£176,600 of Exchequer investment to the Hemsworth constituency provided through Sport England since 2002.

Over £15.5 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Hemsworth constituency since 1997.

A £50,000 repair grant offered by English Heritage in 2008-09.

The Hemsworth constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 1.7 million free swims taken in the Yorkshire and Humber region since April 2009 under the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Milton Keynes, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316044]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Milton Keynes constituency since 1997 include:

£100,169 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Milton Keynes in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

During 2008-09 the Arts Council supported the Milton Keynes Gallery and The Stables in you[illegible]y with regular funding totalling £468,566.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Milton Keynes in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£912,715 of Exchequer investment to the Milton Keynes constituency provided through Sport England since 2002.

Over £67 million of National lottery grants made to applications from the Milton Keynes constituency since 1997.

The Milton Keynes constituency has also benefitted from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency.

This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the National lottery since 1997.

Almost 400,000 free swims taken in the south east in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Slough

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessor since 2000. [311986]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Slough constituency since 1997 include:

£107,400 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Slough in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Slough in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£96,100 of Exchequer investment to the Slough constituency provided through Sport England between 2002-03 and 2009-10.

Over £25 million of National lottery grants made to applications from the Slough constituency since 1997.

The Slough constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the National Lottery since 1997.

Over 6,000 free swims taken in the Slough Unitary Authority in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Sports: Public Participation

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the provisional results of the most recent Taking Part survey to be published. [316249]

**Mr. Simon:** The next release of Taking Part survey results will take place on 18 March 2010.

This provides an update to the rolling annual data published on 17 December 2009 and will include additional data for the period up to December 2009.

Interim progress against public service agreement 21; indicator 6 will be assessed using data from the Taking Part survey in summer 2010, with the final assessment published in summer 2011.

### Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315630]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the South Thanet constituency since 2000 include:

£5,813 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in South Thanet in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in South Thanet in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

Almost £14 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the South Thanet constituency since 1997.

The South Thanet constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 400,000 free swims taken in the south east in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Vauxhall

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310334]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Vauxhall constituency since 1997 include:

£635,706 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Vauxhall in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

£37,844,788 of capital lottery funds allocated by Arts Council England for projects in Vauxhall undertaken since 2003.

The Young Vic and National Theatre have joined A Night Less Ordinary allowing young people to attend theatre events for free.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Vauxhall in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£497,500 of Exchequer investment to the Vauxhall constituency provided through Sport England between 2002-03 and 2009-10.

Over £306 million of National lottery grants made to applications from the Vauxhall constituency since 1997.

The Vauxhall constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the National Lottery since 1997.

Almost 1 million free swims taken in London in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09 10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Health Bill: Draft

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the draft Animal Health Bill what contribution hobby farmers would be expected to make under the cost-sharing arrangements proposed in the draft Bill. [315785]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The cost sharing arrangements associated with the draft Animal Health Bill will be developed as part of a future Finance Bill. The form that the cost sharing arrangements will take and any implications for the farming sector will be examined as part of the policy development process.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315478]

**Dan Norris:** There are currently seven embedded communicators working within the business and a further 70 in the core communications function.

Government Communications Network (GCN) membership data are not held by individual departments. The Cabinet Office unit who administer the GCN are unable to share membership data without the permission of individual members. Therefore it is not possible to readily provide accurate information.

Detailed figures relating to DEFRA agencies are not held centrally and could only be collated at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Legal Costs

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure his Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each year since his Department was established; and for what purposes such services have been commissioned. [300583]

**Dan Norris:** The expenditure the Department and its agencies have incurred on external legal advice and representation in each financial year since the Department was established is as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 3,737 |
| 2003-04 | 2,955 |
| 2004-05 | 4,898 |
| 2005-06 | 4,374 |
| 2006-07 | 1,858 |
| 2007-08 | 4,770 |
| 2008-09 | 4,061 |

External legal advice and representation was commissioned for a range of specialist legal services that were not available internally.

In reply to a question from the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1429W, asking how much was spent on legal fees in each of the previous five years, 2002-03 to 2006-07, an answer was published which gave lower figures for those years than the figures above.

The reason is that one of the Department's executive agencies (the Rural Payments Agency) has revised its figures for 2002-03 to 2006-07 to include expenditure on legal services by non-legal divisions within the RPA that had been omitted from the answer referred to above.

### Departmental Legislation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [303250]

**Dan Norris:** The information requested is as follows:

*Climate Change Act 2008*

DEFRA is only responsible for some parts of the Climate Change Act 2008.

The parts of the Act for which DEFRA is responsible do not create any other offences, or repeal any offences. However there are some provisions which amend some offences.

Section 88 amends section 105(2) of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to enable an increase in the maximum fines on summary conviction that can be provided for under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999. This is to enable the maximum fines on summary conviction under regulations made under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 to be made consistent with the equivalent maximum fines under section 33(8) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Also to provide for consistency, it revokes regulation 39(2)(a) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (which provides for maximum fines).

Paragraph 3 of schedule 5 contains a consequential amendment to section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (receptacles for household waste). Section 46 contains an offence provision.

*Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*

The Marine and Coastal Access Act creates a number of new offences, abolishes others and amends some existing criminal offences. The Act has only recently received Royal Assent and so a number of these provisions are not yet in force. Full details of the offences that will be created when the Act is fully in force and of the offences that will be repealed or amended are as follows:

When Act is fully in force:

*Offences created*

Section 85(1) (breach of requirement for, or conditions of, marine licence)

Section 89(1) (knowingly/recklessly making false/misleading statements; intentional failure to disclose material particular)

Section 92(3) (failure to comply with compliance notice or remediation notice)

Section 103(3) (failure to comply with stop notice)

Section 105(3) (failure to comply with emergency safety notice)

Section 139(1) (contravening any byelaw made under section 129 or 132(1), or any order made under section 134 or 136(1))

Section 140(1) (damaging etc protected features of Marine Conservation Zones)

Section 163(1) (contravention of any byelaw made under section 155)

Section 163(2) (liability of master, owner and charterer)

Section 190(1) (contravention of any provision of an order made under section 189)

Section 190(2) (liability of master, owner and charterer)

Section 195 amends section 3 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 to insert offence of contravening an order made under subsection (2A))

Section 198 amends section 5 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 by substituting subsection (1) to make it an offence to contravene any prohibition or restriction imposed by an order made under section 5 and to add liability for master, owner or charter of vessel

Section 199 amends section 15 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 to create offences of assaulting an officer and obstructing an officer

Section 200 substitutes section 12 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 in relation to liability of officers etc of bodies corporate

Section 206 amends section 3 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 to provide for liability of master, owner and charterer

Section 219 amends section 27 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to create two new offences in section 27B of that Act (unauthorised fishing)

Section 228(1) amends the Theft Act 1968 to substitute an offence of unlawfully taking or destroying etc fish in private property etc.

Section 232 contains an enabling power to make regulations in relation to keeping, introduction and removal of fish, and such regulations may make provision creating criminal offences

Section 292(1) (failure without reasonable excuse to comply with reasonable requirement or directions given by enforcement officer, etc).

Section 292(3) (knowing or reckless provision of false information; intentional failure to disclose material particulars)

Section 292(4) (intentional obstruction of enforcement officer)

Section 292(5) (assaulting an enforcement officer)

Section 292(6) (falsely pretending to be an enforcement officer)

Section 293 amends section 30 of the Fisheries Act 1981 to substitute provision providing for liability of master, owner and charterer, and offence of contravention of fishing restrictions/obligations

Section 314(1) amends Energy Act 2008 to create the following new offences in that Act:

section 79I (carrying out operation without consent or failing to comply with condition)

section 79J(1) (knowingly or recklessly making false statements)

section 79J(2) (failing to disclose relevant information)

section 79K(1) (failure to fail to comply with a direction under section 79E)

section 79L(1) (failure to comply with emergency safety notice or immediate action notice within time allowed)

section 79N contains an enabling power for making regulations about inspectors etc, and such regulations may provide for the creation of offences

Section 318 (offences by officers etc where offence committed by bodies corporate)

Schedule 15, paragraph 3(5) amends the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 to insert a new section 1(6A) (failure to comply with order under section 1(6))

*Repeals*

Section 187 repeals the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 (which contains offences in section 11)

Section 233 repeals several offences in Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975: section 4 (poisonous matter and polluting effluent), section 23 (export of salmon and trout) and section 24 (consignment of salmon and trout; and obstruction of authorised officer)

Section 234 repeals—

White Herring Fisheries Act 1771 (offence in section 11);

Seal Fishery Act 1875 (offence in section 2);

North Sea Fisheries Act 1893 (offences in sections 2, 3 and 4);

Behring Sea Award Act 1894 (offences in sections 1 to 3);

Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1895 (offences in 1, 2 and 4);

Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act 1912 (offence in section 3);

Schedule 16, paragraph 2 omits offence in section 3 (nets) of Salmon and

Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Paragraph 4 of that Schedule omits offences in sections 6 (fixed engines), 7( fishing weirs) and 8 (fishing mill dams) of that Act. Paragraph 5 omits offences in section 16 (boxes and cribs in weirs and dams); paragraph 6 omits offences in section 17 (restrictions on taking salmon or trout above or below an obstruction or in mill races).

## Environmental Stewardship Scheme: Manpower

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Natural England advisers are working in each Higher Level Stewardship scheme *(a)* target area and *(b)* Government Office region. [315994]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The number of Natural England advisers working on Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) by Government Office region for 2009-10 are shown in the following table[1].

[1] Figures provided by Natural England

| *Government office region* | *Total (full-time equivalents (FTE))* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 17 |
| East of England | 20 |
| North East | 12 |
| North West | 26 |
| South East (including London) | 28 |
| South West | 51 |
| West Midlands | 25 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 21 |
| Total | 200 |

*Notes:*

1. There are 200 FTEs working on HLS, creating new agreements, and maintaining and monitoring existing agreements.
2. An FTE is equivalent to 210 working days and is used instead of numbers of advisers for two reasons: 1) Advisers do not necessarily spend their whole time working on HLS; 2) Some advisers will be part-time.
3. The numbers of FTEs in each region is related to the amount of existing HLS work, the proportion of land that is within target areas within the region and the overall RDPE budget allocated to that region.

Figures to show adviser or FTE distribution by target area are not available as adviser/FTE numbers vary through the year. For reference, the target areas within each Government Office region are shown on the interactive map available at:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/hls/targeting/default.aspx

## Floods: Lewes

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood protection measures in Lewes constituency in each year since 1997. [315771]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The following table shows the amount the Environment Agency has spent on managing flood risk in the Lewes constituency for each year since 1997. The figures include new or improved defences, minor improvement works, maintenance, incident response, flood warning improvements, and grants to local authorities for integrated urban drainage.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 409,000 |
| 1998-99 | 434,000 |
| 1999-2000 | 514,000 |
| 2000-01 | 640,000 |
| 2001-02 | 568,000 |
| 2002-03 | 700,000 |
| 2003-04 | 631,000 |
| 2004-05 | 2,511,000 |
| 2005-06 | 946,000 |
| 2006-07 | 784,000 |
| 2007-08 | 844,000 |
| 2008-09 | 911,000 |

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,089,000 |
| Total | 10,991,000 |

These figures are from the Environment Agency's flood defence grant in aid records.

In addition, Lewes district council has been awarded up to £282,000 under DEFRA's household flood protection grant scheme. This funding must be claimed by March 2011.

Work using locally raised funds, as well as strategies and plans identifying the needs of a much wider area, has been excluded.

### Food Supply

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided to local food chain initiatives in the last 12 months; and which such initiatives received that funding. [315961][1]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** During the past 12 months (from 4 February 2009) £11,806,666 has been committed under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to support local food chain initiatives. This funding is administered by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and the breakdown of spend by region is as follows:

| *RDA* | *RDPE spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| North East RDA | 2,636,307 |
| Advantage West Midlands | 583,228 |
| East Midlands | 648,867 |
| South West RDA | 2,850,000 |
| North West RDA | 1,776,242 |
| South East RDA | 2,590,536 |
| East England DA | 301,476 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 400,000 |
| Total | 11,806,666 |

In the same period, RDAs have also provided £4,385,078 from their single pot to support local food chain initiatives, to which DEFRA makes a contribution. The RDPE and single pot money is supporting a range of initiatives including the funding of delivery organisations in the region, support for individual food producers and retail outlets, food hubs and farmers' markets.

In addition, the National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association (FARMA) was awarded a DEFRA Agricultural Development Scheme grant of £176,000 over three years from January 2008, £63,500 of which has been provided within the last 12 months. The award was for a project aimed at improving performance in the farm 'direct sales' sector by means of a producer verification scheme for farmers' markets, and an assurance scheme for farm shops.

### Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316309]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Hemsworth, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Hemsworth is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its public service agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Hemsworth, the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

### Reservoirs

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood storage reservoirs have been *(a)* decommissioned and *(b)* created in each of the last five years. [315911]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The number of Environment Agency flood storage reservoirs that have been *(a)* discontinued and *(b)* constructed during the last five years, and which fall under the Reservoirs Act 1975 are shown in the following table. The Environment Agency does not hold figures for third-party reservoirs, as reservoir use is not listed on the Public Register.

| | *(a) Number of reservoirs discontinued* | *(b) Number of reservoirs constructed* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 | 2 |
| 2006 | 1 | 5 |
| 2007 | 0 | 4 |
| 2008 | 0 | 8 |
| 2009 | 1 | 3 |

There are six additional reservoirs currently under construction.

### Rivers

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage local river restoration. [315910]

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[1] *[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 1MC.]*

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In the current financial year, DEFRA has provided £3.25 million to the Environment Agency and £1.75 million to other organisations such as the Association of Rivers Trusts to undertake river restoration projects and work towards meeting our Water Framework Directive objectives.

As part of this work, over 150 obstructions to fish passages have been made passable or have been removed.

### Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313587]

**Dan Norris:** There were no direct costs to the core Department as a result of the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January. There were some indirect costs from staff time being re-prioritised to prepare for, and co-ordinate the Department's response to, the situation.

### Special Protection Areas: Cats

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department and Natural England has issued to local authorities on banning residents in new housing developments owning cats as a planning condition in areas with Special Protection Areas Status; and which local authorities have implemented Avoidance Strategies with suggested or recommended domestic cat bans. [311657]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I have been asked to reply.

None. The implementation of Avoidance Strategies is not monitored centrally.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Afghan Government on the composition of its delegation to the London conference on Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [313975]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The composition of the Afghan delegation to the London Conference on Afghanistan was a matter for the Afghan Government. The Afghan Government ensured that all relevant Ministers were in attendance.

### Asia: Religious Freedom

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports his Department has received on the treatment of religious minorities in *(a)* North Korea, *(b)* Iran, *(c)* Saudi Arabia, *(d)* Somalia and *(e)* the Maldives. [316239]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. Our overseas missions monitor the human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with their governments. We take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws.

The UK deplores the Iranian authorities' treatment of religious minorities. The Iranian Constitution gives nominal protection to members of the Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian faiths by recognising them as minority religions. The number of Christians and Christian converts in Iran who have been arrested or detained has increased significantly over recent years and, under Iran's strict interpretation of Islam, anyone converting to another religion could face the death penalty or at least life imprisonment. Other religious minorities, such as the Baha'is, do not receive even this slender protection under law and are subjected to gross human rights violations. Seven members of the Baha'i leadership in Iran are currently standing trial.

In Saudi Arabia, Islam is the official religion and all citizens are required to be Muslims. Renouncing religious belief in Islam is an offence punishable by death. Religious minorities continue to suffer discrimination and are under-represented in the senior government bureaucracy, municipal councils and public companies. Shia leaders have also alleged harassment and civil discrimination.

Under the terms of its constitution the Maldives is an Islamic country. Under Maldivian law non-Muslims are forbidden from practising their religion publicly. President Mohamed Nasheed has made public his commitment to ensuring that the Maldives fulfils its international obligations on human rights. Since he was elected in October 2008, there has been welcome progress in areas such as media freedom and freedom of expression. But there are still some areas where progress can be made, particularly in regards to religious freedom. We continue to encourage his government to make further progress on this as soon as possible.

There is no freedom of religion in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Although there are Anglican, Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches in Pyongyang, we believe these to be show churches, for the benefit of foreign visitors.

Given the security situation in Somalia, the UK has no presence on the ground to be able to monitor the human rights situation first hand.

### Conflict Prevention Pool: Finance

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has contributed to the Government's Conflict Prevention Pool in each of the last three years. [312529]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* On 1 April 2009, the Conflict Prevention Pool and Stabilisation Aid Fund were merged to form one single Conflict Pool. The Conflict Pool is governed and managed tri-departmentally by the Department for International Department (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

(FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD); however the funding is provided as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement. The FCO does therefore not normally contribute from its own departmental budget.

On 25 March 2009, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs highlighted in a written ministerial statement the increasing pressure on conflict resources, partly because of exchange rate fluctuations but also because of projected increases in assessed (obligatory) international peacekeeping mission and court contributions. This resulted in less funding being available for discretionary conflict activity (conflict prevention, stabilisation and discretionary peacekeeping e.g. UK secondees to international missions such as EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo). The 2007 CSR Settlement agreed that the Conflict Prevention Pool would be the first port of call if assessed peacekeeping costs rose above forecast.

To offset the impact on discretionary conflict activity, DFID, FCO and MOD provided additional resources (£71 million) from their departmental budgets, of which the FCO set aside £15million.

## Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315600]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's departmental report, which is available on our website and in the Library of the House, includes a section on Communication in Volume One, Part Two (The FCO Change Programme).

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which Google Adword online advertising keywords his Department and its agencies have paid in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [315467]

**Chris Bryant:** In the last 12 months the Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid for Google Adwords for two cross-government digital campaigns, and one consular campaign. We publicised the G20 London Summit

www.londonsummit.gov.uk

at a cost of £991; the Act on Copenhagen campaign www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk at a cost of £492; and our Go Gap Year campaign

www.gogapyear.com

at a cost of £3,000.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the latest period for which figures are available. [315938]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/ukforeignoffice

is free. The FCO has had 554,806 views of its videos and we have over 869 subscribers to our channel. The FCO's videos on forced marriages and travel (visa, passports, and travel advice) are the most popular in terms of views, ratings and comments. Time spent on maintaining the FCO's YouTube account is not recorded, but is estimated to total no more than one hour per working day to upload videos, moderate comments, and reference statistics.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on maintaining his Department's flickr photo stream in the latest period for which figures are available. [315970]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's pro flickr account at:

www.flickr.com/foreignoffice

has an annual cost of $24.95 and has been viewed over 1.5 million times.

## Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 304W, on departmental pay, how many staff in his Department received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what proportion of the total work force this represents; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313141]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office awards non-consolidated, variable performance-related payments to recognise particularly strong performance and to reward those who make the biggest contribution. Last year 948 staff, representing 18 per cent. of the workforce, performed strongly enough to be awarded both an in-year non-consolidated, variable performance related payment as well as an annual one. All these staff come from lower management and administrative grades, because the senior civil service cannot earn in-year awards. The largest combined payment was £3,975. Annual non-consolidated, variable performance payments are solely linked to performance appraisals and have been agreed as part of a collective bargaining, negotiated pay settlement. In-year payments are devolved to Directorates to allow them to recognise achievement by their own staff. Nominations are moderated within the Directorate for balance and fairness to all staff.

## Government Hospitality: Wines

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance is issued to Government departments on the use of wine from the Government wine cellar; and if he will make a statement. [313985]

**Chris Bryant:** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* We do not advise departments on the use of wine as departments do not select wines from the cellar or control the amount used.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Aaswer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 954W, on Government hospitality: wines, from what wine merchants his Department purchased wine in the last 12 months. [314031]

**Chris Bryant:** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* No central records are held of wines purchased across the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

However, Government Hospitality recorded purchases in 2009 from the following wine merchants and producers:

Corney and Barrow Ltd
Justerini and Brooks Ltd
John Lewis/Waitrose
O W Loeb Ltd
Averys of Bristol
Jereboams (Laytons)
Liberty Wines Ltd
Lea and Sandeman Ltd
Berry Bros, and Rudd Ltd
Ridgeview Estate Winery Ltd.
Armit Wines Ltd
Lay and Wheeler Ltd

These merchants and producers are included on Government Hospitality's list of approved suppliers, which is reviewed annually by the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 101W, on Government hospitality: wines, how many people are employed to input data into the Windows SharePoint system used to manage transactions for the Government wine cellar; and when he expects the current backlog of data to have been entered. [314171]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* One civil servant currently has responsibility for the input of data into the Government Hospitality wine database, among other duties. It is hoped that the backlog of data will soon be cleared.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the purchase of wine has met in each of the last three years. [316344]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the purchase of wine meets four times each year.

## Iran: Nuclear Power

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to discuss with the US administration its policy on Iran's nuclear programme. [315929]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary speaks regularly to the US Administration about Iran's nuclear programme and, of course, we consult closely with them as members of the E3+3 on an ongoing basis.

## Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 336W, on Palestinians: international assistance, if he will instruct officials within his Department to carry out research on whether Israeli restrictions on Gaza constitute collective punishment. [314027]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The extent of Israeli restrictions, and the threat to Israel from militants in Gaza, varies constantly. Rather than focus on whether the restrictions at any given time amount to collective punishment, we have consistently pressed the Israeli government to comply with their obligations under international law and allow passage of relief supplies.

## Mor Gabriel Monastery

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Turkey on the future of Mor Gabriel monastery as a place of worship for the Syrian Orthodox community. [315668]

**Chris Bryant:** Yes.

## Overseas Students: Scolarships

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many scholarships have been awarded by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission in each of the last five years. [316345]

**Chris Bryant:** The number of new Marshall scholars in each of the last five years is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 43 |
| 2006 | 43 |
| 2007 | 44 |
| 2008 | 37 |
| 2009 | 40 |

Detailed information about all Marshall scholars can be found on the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission's website:

http://www.marshallscholarship.org/

## Uganda: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* the activities of the Lords Resistance Army and *(b)* prospects for the resumption of peace negotiations involving Joseph Kony in Uganda. [315982]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our posts liaise regularly with the governments in the region on the joint military operation to pursue the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), as well as with the regional UN Peace Keeping Operations and the UN secretariat in New York, and report back on the latest developments. The latest information indicates that LRA fighters number between 200 and 300 in total and they are scattered in small units throughout Northeast Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Southeast Central African Republic and Southern Sudan.

We assess that while Joseph Kony remains at large, the LRA has no will to re-enter negotiations with any government, nor do they have any credible interlocutors. The LRA's main objective is survival, and they continue to perpetrate brutal acts of violence and intimidation in order to expropriate supplies and funds from civilians across South Sudan, the Central African Republic and North Eastern DRC. The LRA has also been known to target aid distribution efforts in the region.

### Western Sahara: Fisheries

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations have taken place with the Saharawi since the 2006 EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement came into effect on the subject of their desire for the agreement. [315752]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government have not held any such consultations with the Saharawi since the 2006 EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement came into force. The Government are not aware whether any such consultations have taken place with other parties.

### Yemen: Embassies

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what additional steps he has taken to ensure the safety and security of *(a)* the British Embassy in Yemen and *(b)* Embassy staff since the closure of the Embassy in January 2010. [315919]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The safety and security of British Nationals overseas is one of the Government's key concerns. This includes the safety of our staff.

The security situation in Yemen is of concern and we judge that there is a high threat from terrorism.

Our embassy is currently open and staff are back at work. However, both the security posture of our embassy and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s Travel Advice are regularly reviewed. Decisions are taken based on the latest intelligence and local information.

For operational security reasons, I cannot go into detail on the measures in place at the embassy. The physical security of our embassies is also regularly reviewed by FCO expert staff.

### Yemen: Hostages

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Yemeni counterpart on the release of the hostage Anthony S. [315920]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** UK officials and Ministers, both in London and in Sana'a, regularly discuss the kidnap, with a range of senior Yemeni officials.

I raised the case most recently raised during my visit to Yemen on 2-4 February 2010. I met a number of senior Yemeni Ministers and officials, including President Saleh, Prime Minister Mujuwar and Deputy Prime Minister for Security Dr. Al Alimi.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary follows the case closely and has raised it in his meetings with Yemeni Ministers.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's role was in the commissioning and delivery of the turbine delivered to the Kajaki Dam in September 2008; whether his Department had lead responsibility for commissioning that project; and if he will make a statement. [314476]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

I am answering on behalf of the Secretary of State for International Development. The Kajaki Dam project in Helmand is financed by the United States Agency for International Development (US AID) and managed from their Office of Infrastructure, Engineering and Energy at the US embassy in Kabul. Further details can be found at USAID's website

http://afghanistan.usaid.gov

The Department for International Development had no role in the commissioning or delivery of the turbine delivered to the Kajaki Dam in September 2008 and has no responsibility for commissioning the project.

### Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means the vacancy for the post of Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser was advertised following the departure of Professor Gordon Conway; and how many people from outside the Civil Service *(a)* applied and *(b)* were interviewed for the post. [315888]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** When Professor Gordon Conway left the Department for International Development (DFID) in June 2009, the post of Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser was merged with the Head of Research post to become the Chief Scientific Adviser and Director Research and Evidence.

When the posts merged, and having sought advice from the Civil Service Commissioners, Professor Chris Whitty who had previously held the post of Head of Research, was confirmed in the new role.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on departmental written questions, by what mechanism his Department monitors its responses to parliamentary questions; what the target time for responses is; and how success against that target is measured. [316506]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) uses an internal database to monitor the progress of parliamentary questions. DFID endeavours to answer all parliamentary questions within the deadlines set by Parliament, that is to answer all ordinary written questions within five days and all named day questions on the date specified. In the last reporting period of January 2010 DFID answered 100 per cent. of ordinary written and 94 per cent. of named day questions on time.

### Haiti: Earthquakes

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the US administration on relief efforts for Haiti. [315930]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In the early stages of the relief effort the Secretary of State for International Development held regular discussions with Dr. Rajiv Shah, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Administrator. At Dr. Rajiv Shah's request we deployed a liaison officer to the US Response Management Team based in USAID, Washington.

Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) are in regular contact with their US counterparts about all aspects of the humanitarian operation in Haiti. The Permanent Secretary has held discussions on the humanitarian response in Haiti with acting USAID Administrator Alonzo Fulgham. A humanitarian team of six people from DFID is also on the ground working closely with US, United Nations and European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) representatives.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with the Government of Haiti on the protection of children orphaned as a result of the recent earthquake. [315959]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Secretary of State for International Development has not held discussions with the Government of Haiti on the protection of children orphaned as a result of the recent earthquake. The lead agency working for child protection in Haiti is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The wellbeing of children, including orphaned children, is a primary concern of The Department for International Development (DFID) and our field team have met with UNICEF to discuss the issue of child protection. The UN in Haiti is working in coordination with the Haitian Government on all aspects of the relief effort.

### Research

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's research budget was in each year since 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [315886]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The annual centrally held research budget for the Department for International Development (DFID) for each since 2005-06 is presented in the following table:

| | *Central research budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 110 |
| 2006-07 | 119 |
| 2007-08 | 128.5 |
| 2008-09 | 130 |
| 2009-10 | 176 |

### Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress in the release and resettlement of Tamil internally displaced persons by the Sri Lankan government; and if he will make a statement. [316203]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 724W, on Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons.

### Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* multi-donor trust funds and *(b)* other multilateral mechanisms for distributing aid in Sudan. [316355]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) recently conducted a country programme evaluation which addressed these questions. A copy of this evaluation will be placed in the Library as soon as it is published.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding will be allocated to each aid sector in Sudan in 2010. [316356]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) aims to respond flexibly to the evolving political and humanitarian situation in Sudan so many of our projects cover multiple sectors. We do, however, expect to spend approximately £48 million on humanitarian assistance and £92 million on longer term development assistance during the financial year 2010-11. In line with the UK's commitments on education for all and water and sanitation, we aim to spend £15 million on education and £5 million on water projects in Sudan in the same financial year.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has discussed with his international counterparts extending the mandate of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission monitoring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [316434]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) is mandated to monitor the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) until the end of the interim period of the CPA in July 2011. No decision on the future of the AEC beyond this period has yet been taken. During their respective visits to Sudan in October 2009 and January 2010, the Minister of State, Mr. Thomas, and Baroness Kinnock raised a number of issues related to the end of the interim period. Baroness Kinnock also raised these issues with the UN, African Union (AU) and international partners at the recent AU Summit in Addis Ababa (31 January-2 February). We will continue to engage closely with international partners and the Sudanese as the matter arises.

### Western Sahara: Overseas Aid

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 688, on engagements, to which organisations the increased aid to the Western Sahara will be granted. [316572]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Western Sahara through its share of the budget of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Industrial Industries

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the level of industrial injuries incurred by manual handling workers in the aviation industry. [316112]

**Paul Clark:** Primary responsibility for occupational safety matters rests with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The Department or Transport fully supports the efforts of HSE colleagues to develop measures to ensure that manual handling at UK airports is carried out in a way which does not adversely impact on the health and safety of handlers.

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [315299]

**Mr. Khan:** The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from the Department for transport investment in the Metropolitan Borough of Gateshead, within which transport authority Blaydon falls, has more than doubled over the last decade.

Investment in Tyne and Wear's Joint Local Transport Plan, to which Gateshead Council is a partner authority, has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2005 and 2008, bus patronage per head of population increased by 8 per cent, and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 22 per cent. in the period 2001-07.

In 2005, the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority, Nexus, submitted a successful bid to the Department for 'Kickstart' revenue funding of the 639 Gateshead Orbital bus service, operated by Go North-East. The £336,256 award facilitated the doubling of the daytime and early-evening frequency of the service from hourly to half-hourly. The improved service, featuring fully accessible vehicles, has significantly improved links between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and areas of western Gateshead, including Blaydon.

The £17 million Centrelink scheme was completed in 2005, providing enhanced public transport links between Gateshead town centre and the MetroCentre. The project included the construction of an £8.4 million busway and the reorganisation of the public transport interchange in Gateshead town centre to facilitate interchange between bus and Metro services. The project has had the complementary effect of removing large numbers of buses from shopping streets, thereby reducing congestion and improving the environment for pedestrians and shoppers.

In July 2007, Gateshead council completed a £1 million upgrade to the A184 Felling bypass. The project included the widening of the road to a three-lane carriageway to provide space for a dedicated bus priority lane. The scheme has provided bus passengers with greater journey time reliability and forms part of Tyne and Wear's 'Superoute' network of Quality Bus Corridors, which generated patronage growth of 14 per cent. between 2002 and 2007.

On 3 February 2010 the Department announced that it would provide around £580 million to the Tyne and Wear Metro for ongoing operating support and major infrastructure renewals to 2021.

### Bridges: Accidents

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department or Transport what information his Department holds on *(a)* the number of bridge strikes in other EU countries where metric height and width restriction signs are required and *(b)* the number of such strikes involving UK lorry drivers in the last 12 months. [316208]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]*: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Hemsworth who were in receipt of concessionary bus travel fares in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [316610]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Hemsworth is part of the West Yorkshire concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 12 January 2010, the West Yorkshire scheme had issued 443,642 smartcard concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over. The Department holds no data about passes issued before the English National Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme was introduced in 2008.

**Alan Keen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners in Feltham and Heston were in receipt of concessionary bus travel fares *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [316685]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Feltham and Heston are part of the London boroughs concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 1 April 2009, the London boroughs had issued approximately 1.188 million smartcard concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over. The Department holds no data about passes issued prior to this date.

### Bus Services: Leicester

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to make an announcement on Leicester city council's bid for Kickstart funding for services in 2010-11. [316603]

**Mr. Khan:** No date for the announcement of the outcome of the 2009 Kickstart scheme has yet been set. An announcement will be made in due course.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315490]

**Chris Mole:** The Driving Standards Agency spent £142 in 2007.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff in his Department and its agencies have the status of *(a)* embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315570]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* The full-time equivalent (FTE) number of communications staff embedded in policy and delivery units in the central Department and its executive agencies are set out in the following table.

*Communications staff embedded in policy and delivery units*

| | *Staff (FTE)* |
|---|---|
| Department for Transport (Central) | 9 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 0 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 17.5 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 0 |
| Highways Agency | 1 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 0.75 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 3 |

*(b)* The Government Communication Network (GCN) is a virtual network open to all full time civil servants engaged in a communications role. The Cabinet Office unit who administer the GCN are unable to share membership data without the permission of individual members. Gathering membership information within the Department to identify those who are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313824]

**Chris Mole:** The number of performance reviews undertaken in the Department for Transport (including our Agencies) is shown in the following tables. Statistics on how many staff left as a result of an unsatisfactory marking are not held by the Department.

| | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Reviews* | *Unsatisfactory* | *Reviews* | *Unsatisfactory* | *Reviews* | *Unsatisfactory* |
| DFT(C) | 1,944 | 27 | 1,837 | 14 | 1,769 | 25 |
| DVLA | 7,050 | 30 | 7,174 | 7 | 6,913 | 27 |
| HA | 1,829 | 5 | 2,189 | 11 | 2,691 | 4 |
| DSA | n/a | n/a | 2,230 | 13 | 1,979 | 5 |
| MCA | 1,355 | 5 | 1,438 | 1 | 1,362 | 0 |
| VOSA | 2,644 | 9 | 2,472 | 9 | 2,448 | 10 |
| CGDA | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| VCA | 125 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 135 | 0 |

| | *2008-09* | | *2009-10* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Reviews* | *Unsatisfactory* | *Reviews* | *Unsatisfactory* |
| DFT(C) | 1,596 | 18 | In progress | In progress |
| DVLA | 6,335 | 18 | In progress | In progress |
| HA | 2,971 | 22 | In progress | In progress |
| DSA | 2,027 | 9 | In progress | In progress |
| MCA | 1,466 | 1 | In progress | In progress |

| | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Reviews | Unsatisfactory | Reviews | Unsatisfactory |
| VOSA | 2,627 | 13 | In progress | In progress |
| CGDA | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| VCA | 140 | 0 | In progress | In progress |

n/a = not available

## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what he expects the timetable to be for implementation of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's draft enforcement policy. [316048]

**Paul Clark:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's revised enforcement strategy document is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. This strategy will seek to maximise collection of vehicle excise duty at minimum cost through encouraging compliance and using proportionate enforcement action where necessary. Most of the initiatives contained in the strategy are already in place. When finalised the strategy document will also set out proposed timescales for the implementation of new initiatives.

## Driver Information Systems: Bridges

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to ensure that accurate information on the *(a)* location and *(b)* height in metric and imperial measurements of low bridges is accessible to producers of satellite navigation systems. [316207]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* None. Producers of satellite navigation systems are responsible for the accuracy of information provided in their products. Moreover, the onus remains on drivers to adhere to warnings and restrictions indicated by traffic signs.

## First Capital Connect

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with First Capital Connect to discuss the break clause in the franchise agreement in the last three months. [316592]

**Chris Mole:** The Continuation Review period ran from November 2007 to November 2008, during which time my officials met with First Capital Connect regularly. The last meeting regarding the Continuation Review was held in February 2009, following the conclusion of that review.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what performance targets First Capital Connect is required to meet before the break clause in the franchise agreement is considered on 1 April 2010. [316593]

**Chris Mole:** A Continuation Review took place pursuant to the terms of the franchise agreement from November 2007 to November 2008. At that time it was concluded that the franchise should be extended beyond the initial expiry date. Therefore there is no break clause in the franchise agreement to be considered on 1 April 2010 and consequently there are no performance targets associated with that date.

Termination is however dealt with under Schedule 10.2 of the National Rail franchise terms. Performance targets and benchmarks which are used to measure this performance can be found at appendices 5, 6 and 7 of the franchise agreement. The First Capital Connect franchise agreement and National Rail franchise terms can be found on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/fcc1/

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which clauses in the franchise agreement in respect of First Capital Connect enable the Government to terminate the agreement due to *(a)* cancellations of rail services, *(b)* punctuality and *(c)* performance. [316594]

**Chris Mole:** Termination of the franchise agreement is dealt with under Schedule 10.2 of the National Rail Franchise Terms.

The events of default and termination event which could lead to termination of the franchise agreements are in Schedule 10.3 of the National Rail Franchise Terms. These include passenger service performance and the benchmarks which are used to measure this performance can be found at Appendices 5, 6 and 7 of the Franchise Agreement. The First Capital Connect Franchise Agreement and National Rail Franchise Terms can be found on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/fcc1/

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will consider bringing forward proposals for a remedial plan for the First Capital Connect franchise. [316599]

**Chris Mole:** In the event that we determine that First Capital Connect is contravening or is likely to contravene any term of their Franchise Agreement, we may serve notice requiring them to propose a remedial plan facilitating compliance with the term in question. We are reviewing First Capital Connect's performance on a daily basis.

## Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316304]

**Mr. Khan:** The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, has provided a new policy framework benefiting all local transport authorities. The framework gives greater certainty of funding, while encouraging more strategic transport planning with local consultation, and increasing local flexibility and discretion over resources. It was accompanied by a significant increase in capital funding: support from the Department for transport investment in the Metropolitan borough of Wakefield, within which transport authority Hemsworth falls, has doubled over the last decade.

Investment in West Yorkshire's Joint Local Transport plan, to which Wakefield council is a partner authority, has delivered a number of improvements to the quality, safety and accessibility of the local transport network. Between 2006 and 2008, the percentage of local authority roads requiring structural maintenance decreased by 58 per cent. and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the local highway network decreased by 30 per cent. in the period 2001-2007.

In December 2003, the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority, Metro, submitted a successful £18.7 million bid to the Department for funding of the 'Mybus' project, which provides dedicated school transport to 133 schools throughout West Yorkshire, including Hemsworth Arts and Community college. Mybus has delivered a number of benefits, including reduced congestion, air pollution and accidents around schools, improved pupil behaviour on journeys to and from school, and enhanced educational performance and attendance. More than 10,000 pupils currently use the service, 64 per cent. of which previously travelled to school by car.

The Wakefield 'Free City Bus' service was introduced by Metro and Wakefield council in April 2007, providing residents and visitors with a frequent and fully accessible service between the city's rail and bus interchanges and main shopping areas. Patronage of the service has far exceeded expectations, particularly for journeys to and from the Ings Road and Westgate Retail Parks, which were previously inaccessible by public transport. The introduction of the Free City Bus has resulted in a 5 per cent. increase in the number of people living within 30 minutes travel time of Wakefield city centre by public transport.

The £24.2 million Hemsworth-to-A1 Link Road was completed in November 2009. The project was commissioned to promote the economic regeneration of the former coal and steel communities in the area by significantly improving their access to the strategic road network. The new section of road, between Hemsworth and the A638 at Upton, includes a link to the proposed South Kirkby Business Park.

### Invalid Vehicles

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1902W, on invalid vehicles: insurance, when the survey his Department is procuring to help assess the number of mobility scooter users and the extent to which their use may have injured people will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [316099]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]*: Fieldwork for this survey took place during January 2010 and the Department expects to receive the survey data set during March 2010. It is likely that results will be published during the first half of the 2010-11 financial year, although a firm date has not yet been fixed.

The survey focused primarily on public attitudes to regulatory issues around mobility scooters. Although a question was asked on injuries caused by mobility scooters, it is not yet clear whether the sample size will be sufficient to allow the publication of robust estimates on this issue.

### London-Exeter Railway Line: Rolling Stock

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to replace the *(a)* Class 158 Express Sprinter and *(b)* Class 159 South Western Turbo rolling stock operating between London and Exeter via Salisbury; what timetable he has set for replacement of that rolling stock; and if he will make a statement. [316083]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has no plans to replace the Class 158 Express Sprinter and the Class 159 South Western Turbo rolling stock operating between London and Exeter.

### M25: Road Traffic

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the average weekday vehicle delay in minutes per 10 miles was on the clockwise M25/A282 between junctions *(a)* 29, *(b)* 30, *(c)* 31, *(d)* 1a, *(e)* 1b and *(f)* 2 and junctions (i) 30, (ii) 31, (iii) 1a, (iv) 1b, (v) 2 and (vi) 3 in the last 12 months; [315423]

(2) what the average weekday vehicle delay in minutes per 10 miles was on the anti-clockwise M25/A282 between junctions *(a)* 3, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 1b, *(d)* 1a, *(e)* 31 and *(f)* 30 and junctions (i) 2, (ii) 1b, (iii) 1a, (iv) 31, (v) 30 and (vi) 29 in the last 12 months. [315424]

**Chris Mole:** Estimates for the average vehicle delay between each of the M25/A282 junctions above during the period December 2008-November 2009 are provided in the following table.

| *Road section* | *Average vehicle delay (minutes per 10 miles)* |
|---|---|
| *Clockwise* | |
| From junction 29 to 30 | 1.5 |
| From junction 30 to 31 | 4.7 |
| From junction 31 to 1a | 11.0 |
| From junction 1a to 1b | 0.1 |
| From junction 1b to 2 | 0.6 |
| From junction 2 to 3 | 0.6 |
| *Anti-clockwise* | |
| From junction 3 to 2 | 2.1 |
| From junction 2 to 1b | 2.9 |
| From junction 1b to 1a | 8.6 |
| From junction 1a to 31 | 6.1 |
| From junction 31 to 30 | 0.4 |
| From junction 30 to 29 | 0.5 |

The dataset used to derive these estimates is primarily for operational use and does not undergo the same level of quality assurance as the dataset used to monitor progress against the Department for Transport's public service agreement indicator on journey time reliability on the strategic road network.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the average weekday vehicle delay in minutes per 10 miles was in respect of the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys on the clockwise M25/A282 between junctions *(a)* 29, *(b)* 30, *(c)* 31, *(d)* 1a, *(e)* 1b and *(f)* 2 and junctions (i) 30, (ii) 31, (iii) 1a, (iv) 1b, (v) 2 and (vi) 3 in respect of each 15 minute period between 6.00 am and 8.00 pm in the last 12 months; [315425]

(2) what the average weekday vehicle delay in minutes per 10 miles was in respect of the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys on the anti-clockwise M25/A282 between junctions *(a)* 3, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 1b, *(d)* 1a, *(e)* 31 and *(f)* 30 and junctions (i) 2, (ii) 1b, (iii) 1a, (iv) 31, (v) 30 and (vi) 29 in respect of each 15 minute period between 6.00 am and 8.00 pm in the last 12 months. [315426]

**Chris Mole:** Estimates for the average vehicle delay for the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys between each M25/A282 junction above, for each 15-minute period between 6.00 am and 8.00 pm during the period December 2008-November 2009 have been placed in the House Libraries.

The dataset used to derive these estimates is primarily for operational use and does not undergo the same level of quality assurance as the dataset used to monitor progress against the Department for Transport's public service agreement indicator on journey time reliability on the strategic road network.

## Motorways: Accidents

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department and its agencies have undertaken on the average number of patrol vehicles required to attend incidents on motorways. [309453]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency is currently undertaking operational research and development to provide a new software model to identify the optimum number of traffic officer patrols required to attend incidents on motorways. This operational research and development is due for delivery towards the end of 2010.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department and its agencies collect on the clearing of motorways following road traffic incidents. [309455]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency routinely gathers the following information regarding the clearing of motorways following road traffic incidents where the Traffic Officer Service is involved in the management of the incident:

the time the incident log is created;

the time a traffic officer arrives at the scene of an incident;

the type of incident;

the time(s) that the incident scene is transferred to direct police control;

the time(s) that the incident scene is transferred from direct police control;

the time(s) that the carriageway is adversely affected by an incident, if the arrival of a traffic officer resource at the scene occurs before the time(s) that the carriageway became adversely affected;

the time that the carriageway is reopened by the Traffic Officer Service.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what data his Department and its agencies collect on the average time taken to reopen a motorway following a closure resulting from a collision. [309456]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency does not collect data on the average time taken to reopen a motorway following a closure resulting from a collision.

The Agency sets Key Performance Indicators for its Traffic Officer Service. The Key Performance Indicator for incident clearance is the most accurate proxy measure of restoring traffic flow after an incident, i.e. when the road is reopened to traffic.

The target for clear-up on heavily trafficked roads is 80 per cent. of incidents cleared within 40 minutes and 95 per cent. cleared within 90 minutes.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the average time taken between notification of an incident on the motorway and the reinstatement of normal traffic flow following that incident in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [309457]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency does not have the data to estimate the average time taken between notification of an incident on the motorway and the reinstatement of normal traffic flow following that incident.

The Agency has found that after most incidents have been cleared some congestion is highly likely, which diminishes over time until normal flow is resumed. This varies according to factors including the time of day and the location.

The Agency sets Key Performance Indicators for its Traffic Officer Service. The Key Performance Indicator for incident clearance is the most accurate proxy measure of restoring traffic flow after an incident, i.e. when the road is reopened to traffic.

The target for clear-up on heavily trafficked roads is 80 per cent. of incidents cleared within 40 minutes and 95 per cent. cleared within 90 minutes.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to improve arrangements for communication between traffic officers and the police in respect of traffic incidents on the motorway. [309462]

**Chris Mole:** On-road traffic officers and the police utilise the Airwave radio service to communicate at incident scenes. The police also use Airwave to communicate directly with Highways Agency regional control centres. To add to this capability, the agency is progressing a programme of work to co-locate police service staff at agency regional control centres.

The Highways Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers recently launched a Traffic Incident Management Guidance Framework, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties when managing motorway incidents.

Regular multi-agency exercises test operational capability, capture lessons learned and improve working relationships between the Highways Agency and other incident responders on a regional basis.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what key performance indicators have been set by his Department and its agencies for traffic officers on setting signs and signals to inform drivers of a motorway incident; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system of setting signals to inform drivers of a motorway incident. [309463]

**Chris Mole:** Signs and signals setting by traffic officers is measured by two key performance indicators within the Highways Agency:

*Signal and sign setting performance indicators*

Set 90 per cent. of appropriate signs and signals within three minutes of a traffic officer/police request being received and changed/removed within two minutes.

All operators to achieve 90 per cent. pass on quality compliance checks for incident handling.

The agency is unable to fully measure the effectiveness of the system of setting signs and signals to inform drivers of a motorway incident.

But the agency has monitoring processes in place at the National Traffic Control Centre, through which it reviews the accuracy of variable message signs and puts corrective action in place when errors are identified.

The agency undertakes National Road Users Satisfaction Surveys on a regular basis which includes questions regarding the accuracy of messages shown on variable message signs. These results are used to inform improvements to accuracy of messages.

The Highways Agency information line also gathers real-time feedback from road users and is able to check the accuracy of the set signs and signals.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment his Department and its agencies have made of the effects on motorway incident clear-up times of the division of roles and responsibilities between the Highways Agency and the police; and if he will make a statement. [309464]

**Chris Mole:** There has been no assessment of how motorway incident clear-up times have been affected following the realignment of roles and responsibilities of the Highways Agency and the Police in 2004.

An assessment of how the realignment of the roles and responsibilities has impacted motorway clear-up times would require performance data indicative of how effectively motorway clear-up was performed prior to the realignment of roles and responsibilities. These data are not available to the Agency and therefore it is not possible to make a comparison.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken to remove a vehicle from a motorway following a collision; [309465]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken to remove an abandoned vehicle from a motorway. [309466]

**Chris Mole:** Where a traffic officer arranges for a vehicle to be removed from the carriageway as part of the National Vehicle Recovery Programme, performance targets are in place.

In November 2009, 81 per cent. of light vehicles classified as 'immediate priority' were removed within 45 minutes. 99.9 per cent. of all vehicles classified as 'immediate priority' were removed within 120 minutes. 82 per cent. of light vehicles classified as 'routine' were removed within 45 minutes. 100 per cent. of all vehicles classified as 'routine' were removed within 120 minutes.

The response time information only relates to the vehicle removal component of the incident, for those incidents involving a vehicle where a traffic officer has arranged for removal on the Strategic Road Network. The Department for Transport does not hold response time information for those vehicles removed by the police or where the owner of the vehicle makes their own suitable recovery arrangements.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what key performance indicators his Department has set in respect of the duration of motorway closures following traffic incidents; and what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the time taken to re-open a motorway after such an incident. [309467]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency has set key performance indicators for the traffic officer service in respect of incident response times and incident clearance times.

The Agency has introduced a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the incident time-line. These include loan of collision investigation equipment to the police, introduction of the Traffic Incident Management Guidance Framework, Enhanced Incident Support Units, availability of specialist equipment and resources and the National Vehicle Recovery Contract.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what key performance indicators have been set by his Department and its agencies for traffic officers in respect of incident clear-up times on motorways following traffic incidents. [309471]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency has set the following key performance indicators in respect of incident clear-up times on motorways following traffic incidents:

*Incident clearance times performance indicators*[1]

Between 6 am and 10 pm on heavily trafficked roads, clear 80 per cent. of immediate graded[2] incidents from all live lanes within 40 minutes.

Between 6 am and 10 pm on lightly trafficked roads, clear 80 per cent. of immediate graded incidents from all live lanes within 45 minutes.

Between 6 am and 10 hrs on heavily trafficked roads, clear 95 per cent. of immediate graded incidents from all live lanes within 90 minutes.

Between 6 am and 10 am on lightly trafficked roads, clear 95 per cent. of immediate graded incidents from all live lanes within 95 minutes.

[1] "Incident clearance" is defined and recorded where Traffic Officer Service is involved in the management of the incidents.

[2] An "immediate graded incident" is one where there is an obstruction on or related to the live carriageway that is likely to cause congestion or threaten safety.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average time taken was between the notification of a regional control centre of a motorway traffic incident and the arrival of the traffic officer service at the scene of that incident in each of the last 10 years; and what performance indicators are in place in respect of that response time. [309472]

**Chris Mole:** The traffic officer service has only been fully operational nationally since 2007. While some regional data exist on response time prior to October 2006, the incomplete data cannot be used to calculate the average time.

The following table shows the average time taken between the notification of a regional control centre of a motorway traffic incident and the arrival of the traffic officer service:

| | *Average immediate response times over a 24 hour period (minutes)* |
|---|---|
| 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007 | 9.4 |
| 2007-08 | 9.2 |
| 2008-09 | 9.3 |

The figures illustrated in the table above show the average response time for the Traffic Officer Service to attend incidents classified as 'immediate'. An 'immediate graded incident' is one where there is an obstruction on or related to the live carriageway that is likely to cause congestion or threaten safety.

The Highways Agency has not set a key performance indicator for the average time taken between the notification to a regional control centre of a motorway traffic incident and the arrival of the traffic officer service at the scene. This aspect of performance is addressed as part of the indicators for the clearance of incidents from all live lanes.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff of his Department are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on research for the purposes of reducing incident clear-up times on motorways. [309474]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency manages research into incident clear up times on motorways. The Highways Agency currently has six full-time staff who spend on average approximately 10 per cent. of their time working on research into reducing incident clear up times on motorways.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what trials using laser-surveying equipment his Department has undertaken for the purposes of reducing motorway incident clear-up times. [309475]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency is currently working closely with Humberside, Sussex and the Metropolitan police forces to trial laser-surveying equipment. This trial will establish what benefits can be provided with respect to reducing the time it takes the police to carry out the investigation of fatal or serious injury incidents on the motorway. The final evaluation of the laser-surveying trial will be completed in 2011.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* research and *(b)* trials of equipment for the purposes of reducing motorway incident clear-up times on motorways in the last five years. [309476]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency manages research into incident clear-up times on motorways. In the last five years (from financial year 2005-06 up to and including the current financial year) the Highways Agency has invested approximately £0.507 million on research and £0.154 million on trials to improve incident clear-up times on motorways.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on accident rates of spray on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* other principal roads. [316103]

**Chris Mole:** There were 421 personal injury accidents on our trunk road network in the three year period 2006 to 2008 where spray was noted by the police as a contributory factor. Of the 421 personal injury accidents, there were 262 on motorways and 159 on 'A Class' trunk roads associated with 'spray from other vehicles'.

There is no ongoing or recently completed research into the effects of spray on accident rates on motorways or other principal roads.

In 2008, joint research by the Highways Agency and the road surfacing industry attempted to measure spray levels on different road surfaces on motorways and trunk roads with varying rainfall conditions but was inconclusive as the available technology could not provide a feasible way of measuring spray levels.

### Motorways: Rain

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on the generation of spray during heavy rainfall of different motorway surfaces. [316104]

**Chris Mole:** There is no ongoing or recently completed research into the effects of spray during heavy rainfall on motorway surfaces. Previous research has highlighted the difficulty in establishing clear evidence from accident records data of the contribution of spray to an accident.

### Motorways: Road Traffic

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department and its agencies have made of the effects on the level of motorway congestion of the implementation of the traffic officer service. [309458]

**Chris Mole:** A Highways Agency progress review of traffic officer service in 2007 included an assessment of the quantitative benefits of the service.

The review concluded that overall a periodic delay was about 11 per cent. lower than expected in 2006 compared with 2003. A periodic delay is the element of congestion that the traffic office service is expected to improve through early detection and clearance of incidents on the motorway network.

Although overall delays increased over this period, the element associated with detection and clearance of incidents increased less than would otherwise have been expected.

A Department for Transport review in 2009 stated that the 2007 benefits had been reviewed by Department economists and were confirmed as being robust.

### Railways: Standards

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve the performance of the railway industry; and if he will make a statement. [314482]

**Chris Mole:** Targets to improve the performance of train operating companies are written into the franchises let by the Department for Transport.

Targets to improve the performance of Network Rail are written into the settlement they agree with the Office of Rail Regulation.

The performance of all aspects of the rail industry is monitored by the Department for Transport through the cross-industry Performance Delivery Group which is chaired by Ministers.

Performance on the rail network has consistently improved each year for the last eight years. Punctuality has risen from 75 per cent. to over 91 per cent. currently. The rail industry has been set a target to improve this further to 92.6 per cent. by March 2014.

### Road Signs and Markings: Health Services

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will assess the merits of placing on motorways and major roads direction signs to NHS Urgent Care Centres; and if, he will make a statement. [316017]

**Chris Mole:** The Government's policy is that hospitals (including those with accident and emergency and minor injury units) and other medical facilities are not normally signed from motorways and other trunk roads.

For operational reasons there are a number of junctions on the all-purpose trunk road where hospitals (including those without accident and emergency facilities) have been signed. These signs have been approved by exception in situations where road users have to take a different route than expected or where there may be two hospitals in close proximity that could confuse the road user, particularly if one has an accident and emergency department and the other does not.

Providing signs on the motorway and primary route network to accident and emergency or urgent care centres would require a considerable number of extra signs and could result in some road users missing existing safety-critical signs.

### Roads: Accidents

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road accidents resulted in the death or serious injury of *(a)* an adult and *(b)* a child in (i) Lewes constituency and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1994. [315770]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested can be found in the following tables.

*Reported road accidents involving killed or seriously injured adults and children in Lewes constituency[1]: 1994 to 2008*

| | *Accidents involving a killed or seriously injured adult*[2] | *Accidents involving a killed or seriously injured child*[3] | *All accidents involving a killed or seriously injured casualty*[4,5] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 67 | 6 | 71 |
| 1995 | 69 | 6 | 73 |
| 1996 | 78 | 6 | 83 |
| 1997 | 70 | 9 | 78 |
| 1998 | 58 | 8 | 66 |
| 1999 | 80 | 7 | 88 |
| 2000 | 68 | 2 | 72 |
| 2001 | 55 | 2 | 57 |
| 2002 | 74 | 5 | 82 |
| 2003 | 52 | 2 | 54 |
| 2004 | 45 | 4 | 48 |
| 2005 | 46 | 5 | 49 |
| 2006 | 68 | 6 | 71 |
| 2007 | 73 | 5 | 77 |
| 2008 | 67 | 3 | 68 |

[1] Based on 2004 constituency boundary.

[2] Aged 16 years and over.

[3] Aged 0 to 15 years.

[4] Includes cases where age was not recorded.

[5] Accidents can involve both adult and child casualties, so rows may not add up to their total.

*Reported road accidents involving killed or seriously injured adults and children in East Sussex County: 1994 to 2008*

| | *Accidents involving a killed or seriously injured adult*[1] | *Accidents involving a killed or seriously injured child*[3] | *All accidents involving a killed or seriously injured casualty*[1,4] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 484 | 74 | 549 |
| 1995 | 455 | 59 | 510 |
| 1996 | 544 | 73 | 605 |
| 1997 | 448 | 61 | 503 |
| 1998 | 449 | 63 | 517 |
| 1999 | 455 | 51 | 508 |
| 2000 | 429 | 69 | 501 |
| 2001 | 388 | 36 | 428 |
| 2002 | 422 | 50 | 478 |
| 2003 | 424 | 35 | 464 |
| 2004 | 359 | 51 | 410 |
| 2005 | 421 | 46 | 463 |
| 2006 | 461 | 42 | 499 |
| 2007 | 452 | 39 | 484 |

*Reported road accidents involving killed or seriously injured adults and children in East Sussex County: 1994 to 2008*

| | *Accidents involving a killed or seriously injured adult*[1] | *Accidents involving a killed or seriously injured child*[2] | *All accidents involving a killed or seriously injured casualty*[3] [4] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 444 | 45 | 483 |

[1] Aged 16 years and over.

[2] Aged 0 to 15 years.

[3] Includes cases where age was not recorded.

[4] Accidents can involve both adult and child casualties, so rows may not add up to their total.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Local Government Association on the state of repair of local authority roads following the recent severe weather conditions; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that local authorities carry out their duties in respect of road maintenance. [316033]

**Mr. Khan:** I attended the Local Government Association's Regeneration and Transport Board on 21 January, where the repair of roads following the severe weather was raised. The Local Government Association has subsequently written to my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, picking up on some of the points made in discussion.

Local highway authorities have a duty, under s41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the roads in their charge. As with authorities' other duties, there is a range of democratic and legal scrutinies to expose the extent to which they are discharging that remit.

### Rolling Stock

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the remaining serviceable life period of the *(a)* Class 158 Express Sprinter and *(b)* Class 159 South Western Turbo rolling stock; and if he will make a statement. [316084]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has not made an assessment of the remaining serviceable life of the Class 158 and Class 159. This would be a matter for the rolling stock leasing company.

### Southeastern Rail Franchise

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will discuss with Southeastern Trains management the postponement of the high-speed passenger rail service to St Pancras until the regular service runs to timetable. [316643]

**Chris Mole:** We have no plans to postpone the high-speed services to and from St. Pancras. The implementation of the high-speed service has been successful. This service delivers significant journey time improvements of up to 46 minutes for commuters in Kent. These trains have been well used since the full service was introduced from 13 December 2009.

The train service reliability problems that have arisen since December 2009 have been related to adverse weather and infrastructure problems, not the operation of high-speed services.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will review the award of the Southeastern rail franchise. [316644]

**Chris Mole:** As is the case for all rail franchises, the Department for Transport will continue to review the performance of the Southeastern franchise against the requirements of its Franchise Agreement.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will require each local authority seeking to install speed cameras on motorways passing through that local authority's area to use the money raised in consequence of the operation of such cameras to install lighting on motorways throughout that area. [316010]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency is responsible for maintaining and operating the motorway network including installing speed cameras and lighting.

Lighting on motorways would only be considered where safety benefits gained from the lighting will exceed the whole-life costs of installation, operating and maintaining it.

Fine revenue from speeding offences goes directly to HM Treasury.

### Traffic Officers

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many patrol vehicles were in operation on the motorway network on the latest date for which figures are available. [309459]

**Chris Mole:** Figures for week commencing Monday 21 December 2009 show that 113 patrol vehicles were deployed for each of the two day shifts and 64 patrol vehicles were deployed for the night shift.

The patrol routes include the motorway network and a small number of specific sections of all purpose trunk roads in England.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the performance of the traffic officer service since its implementation; what recent steps his Department and its agencies have taken to increase the effectiveness of that service; and when he next plans to review the roles of traffic officers. [309468]

**Chris Mole:** The traffic officer service was established between 2004 and 2007. A review of the service was completed in April 2009 and recognised that performance of the service was in line with expectations in terms of the contribution towards reduced congestion, improved safety and the freeing up of police time.

The effectiveness of the service has been enhanced since becoming fully operational with the introduction of a number of initiatives. These include:

the introduction of key performance indicators;

the national vehicle recovery manager contract which has resulted in improvements to the removal of abandoned and collision damaged vehicles;

the co-location of the police control room staff in the regional control centres enabling improved incident management; and

an award-winning training scheme improving the traffic officer service capability.

There are no current plans to further review the roles of the traffic officers.

### Traffic Officers: Expenditure

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* fuel and *(b)* maintenance for patrol vehicles in each of the last three years. [309452]

**Chris Mole:** The Vehicle Operator Services Agency and the Highways Agency use patrol vehicles; however, spend information on fuel and maintenance for patrol vehicles is not recorded separately and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Where information is available it has been set out as follows:

The Vehicle Operator Services Agency spend on fuel for patrol vehicles from October 2008 to September 2009 was £161,467 and spend on maintenance of patrol vehicles from October 2008 to September 2009 was £164,343.

The Highways Agency spend on fuel for patrol vehicles was £2,340,000 in 2006-07, £2,016,000 in 2007-08 and £2,772,000 in 2008-09. Vehicles are provided on a lease basis which includes the lease and maintenance costs which cannot be separated. The lease cost for patrol vehicles was £2,305,000 in 2006-07, £2,337,000 in 2007-08 and £3,118,000 in 2008-09. For 2008-09 approximately one third of the lease cost was for maintenance. The increase in costs is largely as a result of the growth in the number of traffic officer patrols as the service was rolled out across the motorway network in England.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency does not use patrol vehicles but has vehicles that are used in response to incidents.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost of patrol vehicles maintenance has been in each year since the introduction of the traffic officer service. [309460]

**Chris Mole:** Traffic officer vehicles are provided on a lease basis and the Highways Agency is charged a monthly fee that comprises costs for both lease and maintenance. The annual spend since 2004 is shown in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Lease/maintenance (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 272 |
| 2005-06 | 1,369 |
| 2006-07 | 2,305 |
| 2007-08 | 2,337 |
| 2008-09 | 3,118 |

For 2008-09 approximately one third of the lease cost was for maintenance.

The increase in costs is largely as a result of the growth in the number of traffic officer patrols as the service was rolled out across the motorway network in England.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies had spent on the traffic officer service on the latest date for which figures are available. [309470]

**Chris Mole:** The expenditure on the traffic officer service is not separately identified in the annual report and accounts of the Highways Agency. An extract of the management accounts has been used to provide the information requested.

The Highways Agency has spent the following on the provision of the traffic officer service, from inception to the latest audited accounts.

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 56.1 |
| 2005-06 | 90.0 |
| 2006-07 | 78.6 |
| 2007-08 | 79.2 |
| 2008-09 | 85.8 |

The early years include the set-up costs for the service. The service was rolled out across the regions, reaching full coverage in October 2006 with the first full year of operation being 2007-08.

### Traffic Officers: Training

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the average cost to his Department and its agencies of training a traffic officer to the standard required to discharge duties effectively in the latest period for which figures are available. [309469]

**Chris Mole:** Traffic officers operate primarily either on the road or in a regional control centre and the training requirement for each role is different. The average cost of training for each role is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| On road | 4,500 |
| Off road | 5,000 |

This cost covers initial off-the-job training, followed by on-the-job coaching to ensure that new recruits can operate safely and competently in a live environment.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Departmental Billing

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Solicitor-General what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken by *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* its agency to pay invoices from (i) small and medium-sized enterprises and (ii) all creditors in the last 12 months. [315141]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Law Officers' Departments and agency are committed to the ongoing improvement of their payment systems in order to meet the Government's target of paying invoices within 10 days of receipt, as announced by the Prime Minister in 2008. Recent changes to payment systems have led to some small gains in performance over the last year, with approximately 76 per cent. of all invoices submitted to the Law Officers'

Departments in November 2009 being paid within 10 days of receipt as compared to just over 73 per cent. in January 2009. It is anticipated that these improvements will increase once the new arrangements are fully embedded.

We do not differentiate payments by supplier size as we aim to pay all suppliers within 10 days.

### Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many separate bookings at hotels graded five star or above were made through the Expotel booking service by the Law Officers' Departments in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost such bookings were made. [315572]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) routinely uses the Expotel service to book hotels for officials engaged on official business, and in the last calendar year booked a hotel rated at 5 stars or above on 12 occasions at a total cost of £3760 (an average of £139.25 per night). This was approximately 1.3 per cent. of all bookings made. As a Government Department the SFO is able to negotiate rates well below commercial ones, and would only select 5 star ratings should other ratings not be available or suitable.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have made no bookings using Expotel for stays in hotels graded 'five star' or above during this period.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria his Department is using to evaluate the effectiveness of the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [315181]

**Joan Ruddock:** Government will monitor the carbon reductions and the energy savings through the reporting mechanisms of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme itself. These data will be public. We will also undertake work during the first phase which will consider the overall costs and benefits (including total cost savings) to participants. In the longer term, the effectiveness of the CRC in reducing carbon emissions will be determined by the emissions cap which will apply from 2013. In setting the cap, Government will consider advice from the Committee on Climate Change later this year, the available cost-effective emissions reductions and the potential in the CRC sector to contribute to achieving our carbon budgets.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* positive and *(b)* negative responses there were to the consultation on implementation of the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [316027]

**Joan Ruddock:** The majority of respondents to the 2006 consultation agreed with the outline proposals for what has become the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The details of the proposed scheme were set out in the 2009 Consultation on the Draft Order to implement the scheme. There were 276 respondents who addressed 65 questions. Of the 8,179 responses 5,556 were positive; 2,254 indicated concern either with the proposed policy or the associated legal drafting; and 369 were registered as "don't know".

A full breakdown of responses to the March 2009 Consultation on the Draft Order to implement the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme was published on 7 October 2009 and is available on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/crc/crc.aspx

### Email

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the deletion of emails; and what mechanism is in place to ensure adherence to guidance issued to departments by the National Archives on electronic records management. [315681]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* DECC was created in November 2008 from parts of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Both Departments had in place their own policies and procedures for electronic records management, including email deletion, which my Department has largely adopted while we develop our own policies and procedures.

*Deletion of emails*

The policy for DECC staff who moved from BIS, and staff new to the Department, is for emails to be automatically deleted after 12 months. The policy for staff who moved from DEFRA is for emails to be kept with no automatic deletion, however at the point of joining DECC, the emails were subject to the DEFRA deletion policy of three years. I anticipate that from April 2010 the Department will be adopting a single policy for all, which will include emails being automatically deleted after 12 months.

*Electronic records management*

The Department is implementing electronic records management based on a software product recommended by the National Archives. My officials continue to work with the National Archives to help us be consistent with their guidance.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether those instructed to act for his Department in litigation relating to miner's knee have made an assessment of the prospects of success of defending the claims. [316127]

**Mr. Kidney:** As this matter is before the courts it would not be appropriate to comment. A preliminary issues trial on 'Limitation' will commence on 28 June 2010 and has been listed for five weeks. This will be important to help shape the way forward for this case.

For compensation to be payable as a result of the litigation, it must be established that British Coal were negligent as an employer and that the injuries suffered by their employees were caused by that negligence.

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure his Department has incurred to date on preparing for miner's knee litigation. [316128]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department's costs and disbursements on defending the miners' knee litigation are £6,537,104.32 at 5 February 2010. The majority of these costs relate to the Department's obligations for document disclosure to the claimants.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employers' Duties (Registration and Compliance) Regulations 2010

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what factors *(a)* were taken into account in determining the level of the fixed penalty prescribed in regulation 12 of the Employers' Duties (Registration and Compliance) Regulations 2010 and *(b)* are taken into account in determining the level of initial penalty notices issued by HM Revenue and Customs; [314265]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the level of fixed penalty notices prescribed in Regulation 12 of the Employers' Duties (Registration and Compliance) Regulations 2010. [314267]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]*: The factors taken into account in determining the level of the fixed penalty are set out on pages 53 to 55 of the Government Response to the Consultation 'Workplace Pension Reform - Completing the Picture', available at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/workplace-pension-reforms

The Regulator will consult with interested stakeholders and publish its enforcement strategy later this year.

The purpose of tax penalties is to encourage taxpayers to fulfil their obligations on time, and to re-assure those who do comply that they will not be disadvantaged by those who do not. Penalty levels have been set so that they provide a fair, proportionate and effective incentive to taxpayers to meet their obligations. This approach has been the subject of wide consultation and received a generally favourable response.

### Review of Equality 2025

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-42WS, on the publication of the report of the Review of Equality 2025, for what reasons the report of the review has not been published immediately; and on what date it will be published. [314033]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]*: As outlined in the written ministerial statement of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-42WS, on the publication of the report of the Review of Equality 2025, the report of the Review of Equality 2025 was not published immediately to allow officials in the Office for Disability Issues time to fully consider and implement the recommendations in the report. We are committed to publishing the report and the document will be available by summer 2010.

### Unemployment: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population of Milton Keynes is in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [315375]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the population of Milton Keynes is in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. (315375).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The proportion of the working age population (men aged 16-64, women aged 16-59) resident in the local authority of Milton Keynes claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for December 2009, was 4.5 per cent.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a home purchased through the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build homebuy, *(c)* Open Market homebuy, *(d)* First Time Buyers' Initiative and *(e)* Social homebuy was in each region in each year since 2005. [315657]

**John Healey:** The following tables show the average value of properties purchased through New Build homebuy, Open Market homebuy and Social homebuy in each region from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

*New Build homebuy*

£

| *Average property values:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 134,240 | 135,090 | 128,970 | 128,860 |
| North West | 130,810 | 132,560 | 125,190 | 123,970 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 123,190 | 125,100 | 124,530 | 126,580 |
| East Midlands | 133,660 | 128,070 | 122,340 | 114,620 |
| West Midlands | 141,910 | 141,230 | 136,810 | 125,420 |
| East of England | 163,910 | 166,490 | 150,850 | 143,450 |
| London | 222,700 | 221,080 | 204,610 | 190,990 |
| South East | 177,930 | 173,840 | 164,250 | 156,410 |
| South West | 153,180 | 154,730 | 148,130 | 142,280 |

*Open Market homebuy*

£

| *Average property values:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | n/a | 111,870 | n/a |
| North West | n/a | 121,210 | n/a |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 139,980 | 142,850 | 135,010 |

*Open Market homebuy*

£

| *Average property values:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 132,760 | 130,850 | 120,700 |
| West Midlands | 129,040 | 125,240 | 113,110 |
| East of England | 160,810 | 154,430 | 145,250 |
| London | 199,150 | 189,990 | 191,950 |
| South East | 171,060 | 172,930 | 153,880 |
| South West | 150,840 | 149,810 | 152,350 |

*Social homebuy*

£

| *Average property values:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North West | 81,000 | 82,470 | 115,980 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | n/a | n/a | 63,080 |
| East Midlands | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| West Midlands | n/a | 135,100 | n/a |
| East of England | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| London | 210,190 | 227,860 | 223,270 |
| South East | n/a | 153,910 | n/a |
| South West | n/a | 145,580 | n/a |

n/a = Not available due to no sales or small sample size of less than five.

*Source:*

CORE (Continuous Recording) sales returns from registered social landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

HomeBuy Direct commenced in 2008-09, but no sales were made in that financial year. Data on Open Market homebuy and Social homebuy are not held centrally prior to 2005-06.

Figures for the sales under the First Time Buyers Initiative are not recorded separately on the CORE return but will be subsumed within other shared ownership categories.

The property price figures are based on the total property price, not the amount paid by the purchaser, which would be to purchase a share of the property.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average income of a household purchasing a property through the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build homebuy, *(c)* Open Market homebuy, *(d)* First Time Buyers' Initiative and *(e)* Social homebuy was in each region in each year since 2005. [315658]

**John Healey:** The average income of households purchasing through New Build homebuy, Open Market homebuy and Social homebuy in each region from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is shown in the following tables.

*New Build homebuy*

£

| *Average household income:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 10,300 | 16,360 | 13,530 | 13,540 |
| North West | 14,910 | 15,250 | 15,610 | 14,740 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 10,040 | 14,750 | 13,310 | 13,690 |
| East Midlands | 14,940 | 16,010 | 15,020 | 15,820 |
| West Midlands | 16,210 | 16,550 | 15,800 | 16,760 |
| East of England | 18,910 | 20,550 | 19,200 | 20,350 |
| London | 23,710 | 24,010 | 23,600 | 21,380 |
| South East | 20,190 | 19,620 | 19,880 | 20,590 |
| South West | 17,250 | 18,260 | 18,030 | 18,490 |

*Open Market homebuy*

£

| *Average household income:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | n/a | 14,120 | n/a |
| North West | n/a | 17,620 | n/a |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 20,290 | 19,360 | 16,570 |
| East Midlands | 20,660 | 22,220 | 17,380 |
| West Midlands | 21,280 | 20,060 | 18,900 |
| Eastern | 22,860 | 25,340 | 21,280 |
| London | 30,390 | 25,010 | n/a |
| South East | 23,550 | 27,480 | 24,490 |
| South West | 22,470 | 22,480 | 22,050 |

*Social homebuy*

£

| *Average household income:* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | n/a | 18,650 | 17,370 |
| North West | 10,720 | n/a | 16,950 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| East Midlands | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| West Midlands | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| East of England | n/a | 30,400 | 30,520 |
| London | 26,150 | 19,300 | n/a |
| South East | n/a | 20,230 | n/a |
| South West | n/a | n/a | n/a |

n/a = Not available due to no sales or small sample size which provides unreliable estimates

*Source:*

CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from registered social landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

HomeBuy Direct commenced in 2008-09, but no sales were made in that financial year. Data on Open market homebuy and Social homebuy are not held centrally prior to 2005-06.

Figures for the sales under the First Time Buyers Initiative are not recorded separately on the CORE return but will be subsumed within other shared ownership categories.

The household income figures are calculated from the "monthly take home pay" figures, which are based on net earnings from any paid work. These figures do not include income from benefits such as income support, child benefit, child tax credit, or any payments received from the Child Support Agency (CSA).

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by his Department on the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build homebuy, *(c)* Open Market homebuy, *(d)* First Time Buyers' Initiative and *(e)* Social homebuy in each region in each year since 2005. [315659]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right. hon. Friend the Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1540W.

The following table shows final figures for each product by region for 2008-09:

*2008-09*

*£ million*

| *Product* | *Open market homebuy* | *New build homebuy* | *First time buyers initiative* | *Social homebuy* | *Rent to homebuy* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 0.63 | 2.61 | 1.29 | 0.06 | 0.65 |
| North West | 5.69 | 7.48 | 5.57 | 0.20 | 7.74 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 7.20 | 3.39 | 1.94 | 0.01 | 4.44 |
| East Midlands | 5.94 | 1.09 | 1.15 | 0.00 | 9.44 |
| West Midlands | 9.93 | 17.33 | 2.90 | 0.09 | 4.71 |
| Eastern | 32.05 | 15.43 | 5.02 | 0.03 | 9.32 |
| London | 69.13 | 93.91 | 6.31 | 0.46 | 42.04 |
| South East | 57.40 | 35.67 | 7.00 | 0.12 | 4.91 |
| South West | 19.27 | 11.43 | 3.39 | 0.00 | 4.58 |
| Total | 207.24 | 188.34 | 34.56 | 0.97 | 87.83 |

*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency

Information on expenditure on these products for 2009-10 will be available after the end of the financial year.

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the provision of affordable housing. [316654]

**John Healey:** Building Britain's Future, launched on 29 June 2009, set out that meeting local housing needs is at the heart of our vision for the future of Britain. We are making available £1.5 billion additional investment in new affordable housing in the Housing Pledge, committing to a fairer deal in housing allocation, and giving local authorities a central role in delivery.

We are focused on early delivery to meet urgent housing need, support recovery, and restart construction. The new funding will deliver 20,000 new affordable homes over two years of which over 13,000 will be for social rent.

In total, this additional money in the Housing Pledge means we are investing some £7.5 billion over the two years 2009-11 to provide 112,000 affordable homes over these two years.

### Audit Commission

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what locations the Audit Commission held away days for its staff in the last 36-months outside its premises; and at what cost in each case. [315516]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission does not hold 'away days'. None of our events off site are for leisure or recreational purposes.

The Commission has over 2,000 staff located throughout England. It is necessary to bring staff together on occasions to ensure the effectiveness of operational delivery and employee relations. The Commission only has staff meetings where there is a specific business purpose. The purpose may be to review strategy, improve communications, improve organisational cohesion or address a specific operational issue.

Most meetings are held in Commission offices. On occasions meetings are held in other premises for one or more reasons including (a) the meeting facilities in our offices are not big enough for the numbers involved; (b) the meeting facilities are unavailable because of other bookings; (c) the meeting requires specialist facilities; (d) an external venue is chosen to best accommodate staff travelling from various parts of the country, access by public transport and attendance by non Commission staff including stakeholders and other inspectorates; and (e) an external environment is deemed most appropriate for that meeting.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which body *(a)* inspects, *(b)* audits and *(c)* oversees complaints in relation to the Audit Commission. [315517]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Audit Commission is not inspected, although it does have to lay the annual report of its activities before Parliament. The Audit Commission is audited by the National Audit Office. The Audit Commission operates a three stage complaints system, with the first two stages being internal within the organisation and the third stage being provided by the Independent Complaints Reviewer.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external public affairs companies the Audit Commission has hired since 1997; for what purposes; and at what cost in each case. [315548]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission hired three external public affairs companies, Lexington Communications, Consolidated Communications and Connect Public Affairs, during the period 2003/04 to 2009/10. Each were contracted to provide parliamentary and political monitoring and research support. The contract value for each is shown in the attached table. Unfortunately we do not hold this information prior to 2003.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

*Table—Cost of hiring external public affairs companies*

£

| | Financial year | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Supplier* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* | *Supplier totals* |
| Lexington Communications | — | 61,260 | 35,000 | — | — | — | — | 96,260 |
| Consolidated Communications | 2,500 | — | 23,100 | 36,300 | 56,319 | 21,277 | — | 139,496 |
| Connect Public Affairs | — | — | — | — | — | 27,595 | 33,395 | 60,954 |

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission paid in *(a)* parking fines and *(b)* congestion charge fines in each of the last three years. [315551]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has not paid any parking fines or congestion charge fines in the last three years. Responsibility for paying these fines falls to those members of staff that have incurred them.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what unsolicited communications the Audit Commission has made to Conservative *(a)* councillors, *(b)* hon. Members, *(c)* Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and *(d)* peers in relation to (i) Comprehensive Area Assessment and (ii) Conservative Party policy on the issue. [315552]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has sent five communications in relation to Comprehensive Area Assessment to all elected members of English district, unitary, county, metropolitan district and London borough councils:

Councillor Update, an electronic bulletin, was sent to all councillors on 2 March 2009, 2 June 2009, 4 November 2009 and 22 January 2010 and included news items about Comprehensive Area Assessment.

On 28 September, the Audit Commission sent a flyer letting all councillors know that they could find out more information about Comprehensive Area Assessment and its role in holding local public services to account at the Conservative Party Conference in October 2009.

The Audit Commission has sent five communications in relation to CAA to Members of Parliament sitting for English constituencies as follows:

the first was sent out on 10 February and communicated final details of the Comprehensive Area Assessment framework;

the second was our Parliamentary Bulletin, an electronic bulletin, sent to all MPs on 22 July;

the third was on 28 September, and was a flyer to all English MPs regarding the Oneplace demonstration available at the autumn party conference;

the fourth was our Parliamentary Bulletin, an electronic bulletin, sent to all English MPs on 24 November; and

the fifth was the results of Comprehensive Area Assessment that was sent to all English MPs on 9 December.

In summer 2009, the Audit Commission's CAA lead inspectors wrote to MPs in the areas they were assessing seeking their views on the performance of local public services. Feedback from MPs formed a helpful element of the evidence base for the CAA assessments.

On 18 November 2009, Prospective Parliamentary Candidates from all parties seeking election for English constituencies were sent a communication that informed them of the date of the publication of the results for Comprehensive Area Assessment. The Comprehensive Area Assessment results were sent to them on 9 December.

On 27 February 2009, peers of all parties were sent the final details of the Comprehensive Area Assessment framework. On 24 November our Parliamentary Bulletin was sent to all peers with an email address. On 9 December peers with email addresses were sent the Comprehensive Area Assessment results.

We have not sent councillors, MPs, Prospective Parliamentary Candidates or peers any communications on Conservative Party policy towards Comprehensive Area Assessment.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Audit Commission has made to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in the last 12 months; and for what purposes. [315553]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has paid the Government Car and Despatch Agency £9,379.50 (including VAT) in the last 12 months. The Audit Commission use the Government Car and Despatch Agency for the Chairman and senior staff to travel around London on Commission business. This is a greener and more cost effective alternative to black cabs.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what value and proportion of hotel bookings made by the Audit Commission were made through the Expotel Hotel Reservations facility in the last year for which figures are held. [315555]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

In the financial year 2008-09 the Audit Commission paid the Expotel Hotel Reservations facility £1.9m, which represented 68% of the total value of expenditure on hotel bookings.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the gross expenditure of the Audit Commission was in each year since 1996. [315556]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission's gross expenditure for each year since 1996 was as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 92,592 |
| 1996-97 | 93,381 |
| 7 months to October 1997 | 60,676 |
| 1997-98 | 105,703 |
| 1998-99 | 111,620 |
| 1999-2000 | 144,145 |
| 2000-01 | 178,755 |
| 2001-02 | 214,032 |
| 17 months to March 2004 | 325,789 |
| 2004-05 | 234,801 |
| 2005-06 | 196,537 |
| 2006-07 | 219,605 |
| 2007-08 | 202,900 |
| 2008-09 | 204,777 |

The Commission changed its financial year end in 1997 from March to October therefore there are two sets of accounts for that year. Our financial year end was changed again in 2004, so the period 2002-2004 is for 17 months, from November 2002 to March 2004.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, how much the Audit Commission has spent at Shepherd's of Marsham Street, London in each of the last 36 months; and on what dates. [315624]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent a total of £2,955.91 (inc VAT) at Shepherd's in the last 36 months:

£352.25 on 18 July 2007

£634.50 on 30 January 2008

£490.06 on 27 February 2008

£730.97 on 9 July 2008

£78.13 on 19 November 2008 (this was a cancellation charge)

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 767W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter written to the Department's executive public bodies. [315626]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The letters will be sent shortly and I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* associated non-departmental public bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he will publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [312750]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Luton, North (Kelvin Hopkins) on 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 768-69W.

### Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1266W, on departmental pay, how many and what proportion of staff of his Department received both an annual performance bonus and an in-year bonus in 2008-09; what the largest combined bonus payment to an individual was; what proportion of staff received no bonus; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313129]

**Barbara Follett:** In-year performance bonuses for staff in the Department of Communities and Local Government are not identified separately through our payroll system. As a result, providing information about individual employees who received both in-year performance bonuses and annual performance bonuses could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, an element of the Department's pay bill is allocated to the non-consolidated variable pay awards which is used to encourage and reward high performance. These are paid to members of staff who have performed exceptionally well by, for example, exceeding targets or meeting challenging objectives. These non-consolidated variable pay awards are made in line with the Department's annual pay award which are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets. As such, they do not add to future pay bill costs.

The Department also operates a scheme for staff below the senior civil service, under which individuals or teams may receive small non-consolidated awards in recognition of an outstanding contribution over a limited period. The maximum payment made under these arrangements is £600. Line managers are responsible for awarding these payments in line with CLG policy.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the travel guidelines issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315143]

**Barbara Follett:** Staff in the Department's three Executive Agencies use the travel guidelines outlines in the CLG staff handbook, with some local variations. Work is currently being done to make the handbook a publishable document. Our non departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which employ staff each produce their own handbooks and these include the terms on which their staff should travel on official business.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Audit Commission publication, Better information, better decisions, better services: frequency of household waste collection, what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* research the Audit Commission has produced on household waste collections. [315515]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has produced a number of external and internal documents relevant to waste collection. These are listed in Appendix 1 to this letter. The Audit Commission's internal guidance for staff is also included.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Appendix 1

National Reports

"Securing Further Improvements in Refuse Collection", 1984

"Well disposed: responding to the waste challenge" 2008 (This is primarily about waste disposal).

Other publications

"Waste Matters: Good Practice in Waste Management", 1997

"Waste Management: the Strategic Challenge", 2001

Published guidance

"Better information, better decisions, better services: frequency of household waste collection" (Please note: this is not actually guidance on household waste collection, but guidance on the information members should consider when making decisions about waste collection).

"Value for money profile tool"—VFM is central to the Audit Commission's mission and one of our fundamental responsibilities is to ensure that public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively in local government, housing, health, criminal justice and fire and rescue services.

The emphasis of VFM has changed through the years, from a focus on competition through Competitive Compulsory Tendering, to encompassing issues of quality and service improvement through best value, to achieving efficiencies and, most recently, to ensuring that issues of equity and sustainability are addressed. These are all different ways of looking at the same topic. More information is available at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/aboutus/strategicobjectives/challengingpublicbodies/pages/default.aspx

Environmental key lines of enquiry"—Key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) are detailed questions that help to inform our auditors' judgements when assessing the financial performance of NHS trusts. More information is available at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/health/audit/auditorslocalevaluation/ale0910/Pages/alekloeguidance200910.aspx

"Waste Management: Guidance for Improving Services: Learning from Inspection, 2001"

Current Audit Commission internal guidance for staff

Waste management quick guide August 2007

Draft letter to local authorities on controlled waste regulations guidance

### Empty Property

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in each local authority area have been empty for over a year; and how many empty dwelling management orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* concluded in respect of such properties. [316492]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Estimates of the total number of homes empty for more than six months in each local authority will be made available in the House Libraries.

Empty dwelling management orders should only be considered as a last resort, where all other measures of investigation and negotiation have been exhausted and the local authority has been unable to persuade the owner to bring the property back into use. To date, 27 interim empty dwelling management orders have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. Local authorities do not need any further approval to make final empty dwelling management orders. However, local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

### Empty Property: South East

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties there were in each local authority area in the South East of England in each year since 2004. [316057]

**Barbara Follett:** A table giving details of the total number of empty residential properties in each authority in all billing authorities in England, in each year since 2004, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Data on the number of empty residential properties are as reported on the Council Tax Base (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) forms completed by all the billing authorities in England as at a specified date in October each year (November 1 for 2004).

The data include both long-term and short term empty properties. Data across years and across authorities are not strictly comparable as the rules governing the definition of a short term empty property can vary between authority and year.

The Department is planning to publish Experimental Official Statistics in February on the number of hereditaments benefiting from Small Business Rate Relief and the number of empty hereditaments. This statistical release will provide a national estimate for the number of empty non-domestic properties in England.

## Fire Service College: Empty Property

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* book value and *(b)* estimated annual rental value is of vacant residential properties owned by the Fire Service college. [315969]

**Mr. Malik:** The book value of Fire Service college residential properties currently vacant is £1,362,256 based on open market valuations as of March 2009. The estimated total annual rental value for those properties is £67,872.

## Fire Service Independent Review

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of the Bain Report on the future of the fire service *(a)* have and *(b)* have not been implemented. [312039]

**Mr. Malik:** All the recommendations of the Bain Review of the fire and rescue service which were the responsibility of the Government have been implemented, either fully or substantively. The details are set out in a table which has been deposited in the Library of the House.

## Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations were in operation in each local authority area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [312037]

**Mr. Malik:** The number of fire stations that were in operation in each local authority in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available (2009) are illustrated in the following table.

Please note that figures for 1997 were reported for the calendar year, while the latest available figures refer to the 2008-09 financial year.

*Number of fire stations in England in operation in 1997 and 2009*

| *Brigade name* | *1997*[1] | *2009*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 1,457 | 1,444 |
| Avon | 23 | 23 |
| Bedfordshire | 14 | 14 |
| Buckinghamshire | 20 | 20 |
| Cambridgeshire | 28 | 28 |
| Cheshire | 24 | 24 |
| Cleveland | 15 | 15 |
| Cornwall | 31 | 31 |
| County Durham and Darlington | 16 | 15 |
| Cumbria | 38 | 38 |
| Derbyshire | 31 | 31 |
| Devon | 58 | — |
| Devon and Somerset[3] | — | 83 |
| Dorset | 29 | 26 |
| East Sussex | 24 | 24 |
| Essex | 51 | 51 |
| Gloucestershire | 20 | 20 |
| Greater Manchester | 43 | 41 |
| Hampshire | 54 | 52 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 26 | 27 |
| Hertfordshire | 32 | 30 |
| Humberside | 31 | 31 |
| Isle of Wight | 10 | 10 |
| Isles of Scilly | 6 | 6 |
| Kent | 66 | 66 |
| Lancashire | 40 | 39 |
| Leicestershire | 20 | 20 |
| Lincolnshire | 37 | 38 |
| London | 113 | 112 |
| Merseyside | 27 | 26 |
| Norfolk | 40 | 41 |
| North Yorkshire | 37 | 39 |
| Northamptonshire | 22 | 22 |
| Northumberland | 19 | 18 |
| Nottinghamshire | 25 | 24 |
| Oxfordshire | 24 | 24 |
| Royal Berkshire | 20 | 19 |
| Shropshire | 23 | 23 |
| Somerset | 24 | — |
| South Yorkshire | 24 | 25 |
| Staffordshire | 30 | 30 |
| Suffolk | 36 | 35 |
| Surrey | 24 | 24 |
| Tyne and Wear | 18 | 17 |
| Warwickshire | 20 | 19 |
| West Midlands | 41 | 39 |
| West Sussex | 28 | 31 |
| West Yorkshire | 50 | 48 |
| Wiltshire | 25 | 25 |

[1] Calendar year.

[2] Financial year, figure at 31 March 2009.

[3] With effect from 1 April 2007, Devon Fire and rescue service and Somerset fire and rescue service merged to become Devon and Somerset fire and rescue service.

*Note:*

Figures include volunteer stations, private brigades and local fire units.

*Source:*

Annual Returns

## Fire Services: Finance

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the transition cost of the FiReControl project. [316627]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department is meeting the full cost of the transition to FiReControl. The estimated full cost is £420 million.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the financial consequences for individual fire and rescue services in transferring control capabilities to regional fire control centres. [316631]

**Mr. Malik:** No Fire and Rescue Authority will bear any additional cost as a result of FiReControl implementation. Once the new network is established, 21 Fire and Rescue Authorities are expected to make savings, which can be reinvested in local priorities and frontline services. National government will support those Fire and Rescue Authorities which do not make a saving directly through FiReControl payments totalling £8.2 million annually once the network is up and running.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost is of the FiReControl project *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands. [316632]

**Mr. Malik:** The estimated total cost of the FiReControl project is *(a)* £420 million and *(b)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 585-86W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell).

### Fire Services: West Midlands

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the FiReControl project in the West Midlands to be operational. [316587]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 899W.

### Hamas: Internet

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of Hamas's al-Fatah website for children on levels of community cohesion in the UK. [309798]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department of Communities and Local Government has made no assessment of the effects of Hamas's al Fatah website for children on levels of community cohesion in the UK.

On a wider note, last year Government launched the cross-government Hate Crime Action Plan (HCAP) which includes our Internet Hate Crime Action Plan. This will make it easier to report incitement to hatred that happens over the internet and improve our responses by updating systems and policies. That said, any criminal content, including incitement to hatred under the Public Order Act, should be reported to the local police who would be able to gather evidence of any offences and where appropriate, provide this to the Crown Prosecution Service for consideration of any proceedings.

### Home Information Packs

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the average price of a home information pack; and if he will make a statement. [316029]

**John Healey:** The cost of a home information pack (HIP) is set by the market and the Government have no role in this. However, industry reports indicate that the average cost of a HIP is currently between £200 and £300 (excluding VAT).

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of home information packs produced in *(a)* November 2009, *(b)* December 2009 and *(c)* January 2010. [316030]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department does not have a record of the number of HIPs produced.

### Homes and Communities Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the main responsibilities are of the *(a)* Decent Homes and Mixed Communities, *(b)* Growth, *(c)* Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant, *(d)* Housing Market Renewal, *(e)* Thames Gateway Delivery, *(f)* Place of Change and *(g)* Vulnerable People division of the Homes and Communities Agency; and if he will make a statement. [316482]

**John Healey:** The items listed in the question equate to HCA programmes. Divisions do not directly match these titles.

For items *(a)* to *(f)*, Annex 1 of HCA's Corporate plan describes the individual programmes being run by the HCA, together with an indication of the resources allocated to them and what the delivery priorities are. The Corporate plan is available at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/HCA_Corporate%20Plan_English.pdf

In respect of Vulnerable People, the Place of Change and Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant programmes, these are specifically targeted at vulnerable people. The HCA also seeks to support vulnerable and older people through its more general programmes such as the National Affordable Housing programme, which covers both general needs and specialised and supported housing, and the Property and Regeneration programme.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary was of each of the Homes and Communities Agency's regional directors in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [316483]

**John Healey:** The salaries for each regional director for 2008-09 can be found in the agency's 2008-09 annual report. The salaries for 2009-10 will be detailed in the 2009-10 annual report.

### Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government has provided for the First Time Buyers' Initiative to date; and how much will be provided in each of the next three years. [315662]

**John Healey:** Total spend on the First Time Buyers Initiative to the end of January 2010 was £224 million. Information on future spend will be available in due course.

### Housing: Construction

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing starts for housing of each type of tenure there were in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [316655]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There were 409 housing starts in the City of Manchester in the 12 months up to September 2009. Data is not available for tenure types or for parliamentary constituencies.

### Housing: Energy

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of properties entered onto the domestic Energy Performance Certificate database to date have had an energy rating of more than 450. [315661]

**John Healey:** Domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) provide a rating for the energy performance of a building in the form of a rating from A to G using a scale of 1-100. It is not possible for a dwelling to have a rating of more than 100 and therefore, none of the properties that have had an EPC lodged on the Domestic EPC Register have been given an EPC rating of more than 450.

### Housing: Fire Safety

**Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 782W, on fires: elderly, what plans his Department has *(a)* to increase the use of suppression systems to enhance fire safety in domestic dwellings, *(b)* to measure the effectiveness of smoke alarms for people with limited mobility and *(c)* to assess the merits of fire suppression systems in increasing fire safety in domestic dwellings for people with limited mobility. [315514]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government are committed to reducing fire deaths. The installation of properly maintained smoke alarms in every household has been the centrepiece of our efforts to reduce fire deaths as they provide the vital early warning of fire and help people to escape. Smoke alarms can help save lives regardless of age or mobility.

Our view is that sprinklers can be an effective risk mitigation measure, particularly where their provision is targeted at buildings where the occupants are most at risk from fire. However, they are not a panacea and it is important they are considered as part of a package of measures, both active (e.g. smoke alarms) and passive (fire resistant construction materials and compartmentation) and effective building management.

The latest edition of Approved Document B, which gives guidance on compliance with the fire safety aspects of Building Regulations, came into effect in April 2007. The extensive review that preceded the development of this new guidance considered a four year research project looking at the issue of residential and domestic sprinklers from both an effectiveness and cost benefit perspective. The review, which included public consultation, concluded that it would not be cost effective to provide sprinklers in all new homes. We do not intend revisiting Part B of the Building Regulations again until 2013 at the earliest.

A major barrier to the wider use of sprinklers in the domestic market is that they are expensive. The Government are therefore trialling a lower-cost sprinkler system in new build and existing housing in four fire and rescue authority areas to resolve any technical issues and test cost assumptions. If these pilots are successful, we will have demonstrated that a lower-cost system could have a crucial role to play in helping to protect the most vulnerable from fire, including for people with limited mobility.

### Housing: Owner Occupation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many owner-occupiers owned their home *(a)* outright and *(b)* with a mortgage in each of the last 30 years. [315041]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Estimates of the number of owner occupiers that owned their home outright and that were buying with a mortgage are provided in table S101 Trends in Tenure on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/139262.xls

The table contains estimates for 1981, 1984, and 1988 and for each year from 1991 to 2008; estimates for other years are not available. The 1981 to 1991 estimates are based on data from the DOE Labour Force Survey Housing trailer, and estimates from 1992 to 2008 on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

### Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many arm's length management organisations received funding from the Decent Homes scheme in each of the last three years; and how many such organisations he expects to receive such funding in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [315779]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following table sets out the number of local authorities that have received funding for their ALMOs in the four financial years 2006-07 to 2009-10 and the number of local authorities that will receive funding in 2010-11:

| | Number of LAs |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 21 |
| 2007-08 | 31 |
| 2008-09 | 30 |
| 2009-10 | 35 |
| 2010-11 | 31 |

### Local Government: Birmingham

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Birmingham city council on the effects of trends in Government funding on *(a)* the provision of services by and *(b)* employment within the Council; and if he will make a statement. [314732]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with representatives of Birmingham city council on the effects of trends in Government funding. We have recently confirmed our commitment to the first ever three year settlement for local government. This has provided the city council with the increased predictability and stability of funding necessary to continue to improve local services. We have provided councils overall with significant additional Government investment since taking office, with a 39 per cent. real terms increase in funding in the first 10 years and an additional £8.6 billion over the period covered by the current spending review.

The following table sets out the Formula Grant[1] increases that Birmingham city council have received under this Government:

[1] Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.

| | *Prior year's adjusted formula grant (£ million)* | *Formula Grant (£ million)* | *Change (£ million)* | *Change[1] (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 780.831 | 814.667 | 33.836 | 4.3 |
| 1999-2000 | 814.687 | 844.135 | 29.448 | 3.6 |
| 2000-01 | 844.135 | 873.517 | 29.382 | 3.5 |
| 2001-02 | 866.305 | 896.229 | 29.924 | 3.5 |
| 2002-03 | 862.394 | 908.137 | 45.742 | 5.3 |
| Amended 2003-04 | 933.755 | 1,009.103 | 75.348 | 8.1 |
| Amended 2004-05 | 1,011.998 | 1,085.999 | 74.001 | 7.3 |
| Amended 2005-06 | 1,092.178 | 1,165.662 | 73.484 | 6.7 |
| 2006-07[2] | 547.813 | 563.775 | 15.962 | 2.9 |
| 2007-08 | 561.125 | 587.363 | 26.238 | 4.7 |
| 2008-09 | 611.268 | 639.580 | 28.312 | 4.6 |
| 2009-10 | 639.220 | 660.074 | 20.854 | 3.26 |
| 2010-11 | 659.937 | 678.017 | 18.080 | 2.7 |

[1] The prior year's formula grant is adjusted for changes in function and funding to enable a like-for-like comparison.

[2] Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

A written statement on the level of funding for local authorities for 2010-11 was made to the House on 26 November 2009. This was then followed by a consultation period which ended on 6 January 2010, during which local authorities were invited to submit their representations about the Government's proposals. During this consultation period, no representation on the provision of funding for services was received from Birmingham city council.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has however, previously written to the chair of Birmingham's Local Strategic Partnership regarding his concerns over the pace of the delivery of Birmingham's Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) programmes. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 531W.

### Local Government: ICT

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what account his Department took of the effects on district councils of the current economic situation in determining the IT-related requirements to be placed on those councils in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [315440]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to district councils of central Government requirements in relation to IT in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [315441]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government do not place requirements on local government which specifically relate to IT. In the event that a government programme places a new burden on local government, including through additional use of IT, we would provide funding for the overall initiative through the formula grant system or through specific grants as appropriate.

### Local Government: Reorganisation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list for each unitary authority created since 2007 *(a)* the projected cost savings prior to the creation of the new authority, *(b)* the target for cost savings set when the new authority was established and *(c)* the cost savings achieved to date. [314992]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** When we debated the structural change orders in Parliament creating the nine new unitary authorities that came into effect on 1 April 2009, the savings we were anticipating totalled over £100 million per annum once the transition costs of the reorganisation have been met. Estimates of the savings included in the councils' budgets for 2009-10 either directly attributable to the transition to unitary government or facilitated by it total some £159 million. These are summarised in the following table.

*£ million*

| *Unitary council* | *Initially identified minimum estimated annual savings when councils are fully established* | *2009-10 budget savings* |
|---|---|---|
| Bedford borough | 8 | 9.9 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 11 | 8.5 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 8 | 29.0 |
| Cheshire East | 9 | 25.1 |
| Cornwall | 15 | 17.1 |
| Durham | 11 | 26.3 |
| Northumberland | 17 | 23.8 |
| Shropshire | 10 | 10.8 |
| Wiltshire | 18 | 8.6 |
| Total | 107 | 159.1 |

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much had been spent by his Department on the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme on the latest date for which figures are available. [315660]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 871W. Total spend on Homeowners Mortgage Support in 2009-10 will be reported after the end of the financial year.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals relating to the 2005 national non-domestic rates valuation remain outstanding in relation to *(a)* petrol filling stations and *(b)* car washes. [314070]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 28 January 2010]*: The number of rating appeals outstanding against the 2005 Rating Lists in England, for the following class of property is:

Petrol filling stations (excluding those with supermarkets) (SCAT 209): 785

Stand alone car washes (SCAT 045): 90

The data are obtained from the Valuation Office Agency operational database.

### Public Holidays

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [315123]

**Barbara Follett:** This Department has made no estimate of the cost of the introduction of an additional public holiday. However, we are aware of plans for the introduction of one in mid 2012. This would, consequently, fall in the 2012-13 financial year. This Department takes, and will continue to take, full account of public holidays in its delivery planning so to ensure that any disruption to front line services is minimised.

### Regeneration: Rural Areas

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the National Audit Office's report, Regenerating the English Coalfields, HC 84, what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Homes and Communities Agency and regional development agencies *(a)* claim and *(b)* reclaim the benefits from the English Coalfields programme against their own objectives. [311519]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA, and previously English Partnerships (EP) the former national regeneration agency), as primary funding body, is entitled to claim and report all of the outputs from the National Coalfields Programme, although it must make the shared nature of these outputs clear. Regional development agencies (RDAs) are also allowed to report these shared outputs provided this is made clear when they are reported, and that there is no double-counting in relation to wider targets.

### Regional Ministers: Expenditure

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost to the public purse was of the work of regional Ministers in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [316647]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The estimated cost to the public purse for the work of regional Ministers in 2008-09 was £1,461,720. This total was met from within existing Government office and Department budgets. Estimates are based on staff and communication support costs.

### Sheltered Housing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the future of sheltered housing; and whether he has had recent discussions with the Local Government Association on that matter. [316056]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** It is for local authorities to determine how best to meet the housing-related support needs identified in their communities, including the need for sheltered housing. Central Government do not prescribe any particular model of services. However, we expect every service user to have a full risk and needs assessment undertaken and an appropriate support plan put in place. In contracting for Supporting People services, we would expect authorities to specify expected service standards and to monitor these.

The Local Government Association is a member of the ministerial working group on sheltered housing which last met on 12 January 2010. The working group will be re-convened shortly to discuss the recommendations on sheltered housing contained in the recent Select Committee report on Supporting People. The Local Government Association also sits on the Supporting People Transition Board whose aims include disseminating the benefits of housing related support to partners and strategic decision makers following the removal of the ring-fence from the Supporting People grant.

### Social Rented Housing

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 10 *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords have sold the largest number of dwellings in the last five years; how many dwellings each type of vendor sold in that period; and what the monetary value was of such dwellings, excluding those sold to sitting tenants. [316493]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Local authorities can sell their dwellings to sitting tenants through schemes such as right to buy, right to acquire and social homebuy, or they can transfer their stock to registered social landlords as a large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT). The total number of sales and LSVTs by local authorities selling the largest cumulative total between 2004-05 and 2008-09 is shown in the following table. There were LSVTs for only three of the 10 local authorities during the period (Manchester, Salford and Sheffield) of which only Manchester received any capital receipts and which are also shown in the table.

| *LA code* | *LA name* | *All LA sales* | *Capital receipts from LSVTs (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 00DA | Leeds | 4,044 | — |
| 00BN | Manchester | 3,950 | 0.15 |
| 00CN | Birmingham | 3,727 | — |
| 00BE | Southwark | 2,921 | — |
| 00CG | Sheffield | 2,884 | — |
| 00FA | Kingston upon Hull | 2,343 | — |
| 00CE | Doncaster | 2,313 | — |
| 00BR | Salford | 2,057 | — |
| 00FY | Nottingham | 1,948 | — |
| 00CJ | Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,919 | — |

*Source:*
P1B returns to CLG, HCA

Registered social landlords (RSLs) can sell or dispose of dwellings through schemes such as right to buy, preserved right to buy, right to acquire, social homebuy, low cost home ownership, by transfer to other RSLs or a sale to the private sector. The following table shows the cumulative total number of sales between 2004-05 and 2008-09 to the 10 RSLs with the largest number of sales.

| *RSL code* | *RSL name* | *Sales* |
|---|---|---|
| L4123 | Orbit Group Limited | 6,841 |
| L4517 | London and Quadrant Housing Trust | 6,646 |
| L3076 | Home Group Limited | 3,374 |
| L0726 | Metropolitan Housing Trust Limited | 3,045 |
| L0020 | Bromford Carinthia Housing Association Limited | 3,008 |
| L0699 | Catalyst Communities Housing Association Limited | 2,927 |
| L0247 | Sanctuary Housing Association | 2,773 |
| L0514 | Thames Valley Housing Association Limited | 2,587 |
| LH1298 | Cosmopolitan Housing Association Limited | 2,550 |
| LH0455 | A2Dominion London Limited | 2,173 |

*Source*:
Regulatory statistical returns made to the Tenants Services Authority, 2004-05 to 2008-09. Data have been compiled to reflect current organisational structures, reflecting the mergers and transfers of engagement that have happened over the past years.

Data on the monetary value of RSL properties sold, excluding those to sitting tenants, are not held centrally.

### Social Rented Housing: Employment

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* people of working age and *(b)* other households in social housing were in employment, education or training in each year since 1997. [316028]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Estimates of the percentage of people of working age in England, in all tenures and in social housing, who were in employment, education or training in each year since 1997 are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

*Percentage of working age people[1] [2] in employment, education or training, England, 1997 to 2008*

|  | *All tenures* | *Social rented sector (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 77.6 | 50.3 |
| 1998 | 78.2 | 51.4 |
| 1999 | 78.9 | 51.7 |
| 2000 | 79.6 | 53.8 |
| 2001 | 79.8 | 53.6 |
| 2002 | 79.7 | 53.4 |
| 2003 | 80.0 | 52.1 |
| 2004 | 80.1 | 52.3 |
| 2005 | 80.4 | 52.8 |
| 2006 | 80.1 | 52.5 |
| 2007 | 80.1 | 52.4 |
| 2008 | 80.4 | 54.4 |

[1] Excludes cases with unknown economic status

[2] Excludes those resident in Halls of Residence or Nurses Homes

*Source*:
ONS Labour Force Survey

### Social Rented Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of social sector homes were considered not to meet the decent homes standard in 2009. [31[illegible]]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The HCA have calculated using the latest landlord statistics that at 1 April 2009 579,000 (14.5 per cent.) of social homes were classed as non-decent.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charities: Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions the *(a)* Office of the Third Sector and *(b)* Charity Commission have had with the Department of Health on the effects of the implementation of International Accounting Standard 27 (IAS 27) on independent NHS charities. [315272]

**Angela E. Smith:** Officials from the Office of the Third Sector have had several discussions with colleagues from the Department of Health in recent months about the effect of the implementation of International Accounting Standard 27 (IAS 27) on independent NHS charities.

The Charity Commission has said that it has been in regular contact on this subject with the Department of Health, including a series of meetings dating back to February 2009.

HM Treasury has announced that implementation of IAS 27 for NHS charities will be delayed for a further year, and a working party will be established including the Office of the Third Sector, the Charity Commission, the Department of Health, and HM Treasury, which will seek a long-term solution to this issue.

### Civil Servants: Home Working

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether she plans to implement a work from home scheme in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the civil service. [315753]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office encourages Departments to consider home working as part of a range of flexible working options. Each employing department or agency will need to decide for itself how best to implement a work from home scheme in line with its specific departmental needs.

### Civil Service: Pensions

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value of the pension pot assigned to *(a)* Sir Christopher Kelly and *(b)* Sir Thomas Legg on retirement from the Civil Service was. [312494]

**Tessa Jowell:** Declaration of senior officials' salary and pension information in departmental resource accounts was first introduced for the financial year 1999 to 2000 and as Sir Thomas Legg retired on 10 April 1998 neither his pension or cash equivalent transfer values are available.

Cash equivalent transfer values were introduced for the financial year 2003-04 reports. As Sir Christopher Kelly retired on 30 April 2001 no information on his cash equivalent transfer value is available, however, information on his salary and pension are available in the 2000-01 Department of Health Resource Accounts, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Cabinet Office intends to appeal against the decision of the Information Commissioner in respect of the undertaking given by Lord Ashcroft on UK residency. [315443]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Information Commissioner issued his decision on 28 January 2010. The Cabinet Office is considering the terms of the decision and will respond in due course within the timelines set out in the legislation.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306172]

**Tessa Jowell:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Site* | *URL* | *Completion date* | *Redesign cost (ex VAT) (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Civil Service | http://www.civilservice.gov.uk | October 2007 | 15,000.00 |
| Number 10 – Prime Minister's | http://number10.gov.uk | August 2008 | [1]— |
| Civil Service | http://www.civilservice.gov.uk | 26 February 2009 | [2]— |
| UK Honours | http://www.direct.gov.uk/honours (formerly www.honours.gov.uk ) | 31 March 2009 | [3]— |
| Preparing for Emergencies (PFE) | http://www.direct.gov.uk/preparingforemergencies (formerly www.preparingforemergencies.gov.uk ) | 31 March 2009 | [3]— |
| Government Communication Network | http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/comms (formerly www.comms.gov.uk ) | 29 June 2009 | [4]7,940.63 |
| HM Government | http://www.hmg.gov.uk | 15 September 2009 | 4,850.00 |
| Queens Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) | http://www.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardforvoluntaryservice (formerly www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk ) | 31 September 2009 | [5]5,278.80 |
| Civil Service | http://www.civilservice.gov.uk | 16 November 2009 | 7,932.50 |

[1] The cost of the Prime Minister's website redesign was met from the running costs of the Digital Communications Unit. It is not possible to separate out the specific costs associated with the redesign.

[2] The February 2008 Civil Service redesign was undertaken as part of a larger project, and as such it has not been possible to extract the costs specifically related to the redesign.

[3] The content on the UK Honours and PFE websites was migrated to Directgov under the website rationalisation agenda, which involved a redesign. The cost to Cabinet Office in moving this content was in staff time only. To provide internal staff costs would incur disproportionate costs.

[4] The Government Communication Network website was required to merge with the Civil Service website under the Government's website rationalisation agenda, which involved a redesign.

[5] The content on the QAVS website was migrated to Directgov under the website rationalisation agenda. The cost of moving this content was drawn from the existing management contract. No additional costs were incurred.

### Derek Draper

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 6 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 182W, on Derek Draper, whether Mr. Draper has ever been issued with a security pass to No. 10 Downing street. [312298]

**Tessa Jowell:** Mr. Draper has never been issued a security pass to No. 10 Downing street.

### Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 5 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 2315W, on Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan, how many times *(a)* Mr. Derek Draper and *(b)* Mr. Charlie Whelan visited the Downing Street/Cabinet Office complex between October 2007 and April 2009. [312308]

**Tessa Jowell:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals.

### Electorate: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many electors there were in each ward in the London borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [315904]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold this information. The data in the following tables have been provided by the Boundary Commission for England from data compiled by the London borough of Bexley and supplied, originally, to the Office for National Statistics. They show the number of people who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each ward in the London borough of Bexley between 1997 and 2008.

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley London borough[1] | 167,080 | 167,381 | 167,399 | 167,946 | 168,152 |
| | | | | | |
| Barnehurst | 4,824 | 4,834 | 4,793 | 4,772 | 4,781 |
| Barnehurst North | 3,157 | 3,169 | 3,168 | 3,134 | 3,146 |
| Belvedere | 9,453 | 9,354 | 9,342 | 9,338 | 9,326 |
| Blackfen | 5,179 | 5,194 | 5,225 | 5,213 | 5,242 |

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blendon and Penhill | 7,353 | 7,348 | 7,331 | 7,366 | 7,346 |
| Bostall | 7,442 | 7,423 | 7,412 | 7,406 | 7,403 |
| Brampton | 7,884 | 7,907 | 7,863 | 7,871 | 7,860 |
| Christchurch | 7,941 | 7,906 | 7,889 | 7,867 | 7,861 |
| Cray | 4,097 | 4,083 | 3,988 | 3,981 | 4,012 |
| Crayford | 8,656 | 8,565 | 8,516 | 8,497 | 8,573 |
| Danson | 7,313 | 7,312 | 7,325 | 7,361 | 7,354 |
| East Wickham | 8,250 | 8,231 | 8,235 | 8,197 | 8,171 |
| Erith | 8,186 | 8,277 | 8,271 | 8,248 | 8,287 |
| Falconwood | 2,951 | 2,955 | 2,934 | 2,971 | 2,972 |
| Lamorbey | 8,126 | 8,193 | 8,128 | 8,238 | 8,198 |
| North End | 8,579 | 8,706 | 8,823 | 9,024 | 8,970 |
| Northumberland Heath | 7,714 | 8,053 | 8,128 | 8,191 | 8,225 |
| St. Mary's | 8,766 | 8,726 | 8,671 | 8,630 | 8,637 |
| St. Michael's | 7,657 | 7,732 | 7,686 | 7,734 | 7,714 |
| Sidcup East | 8,693 | 8,565 | 8,622 | 8,671 | 8,669 |
| Sidcup West | 7,953 | 7,878 | 7,817 | 7,752 | 7,742 |
| Thamesmead East | 9,123 | 9,191 | 9,482 | 9,707 | 9,967 |
| Upton | 7,783 | 7,779 | 7,750 | 7,777 | 7,696 |

[1] As created by The London Borough of Bexley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977

*Ward electorates*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bexley London borough[1] | 168,544 | 169,330 | 169,874 | 170,549 | 169,760 | 170,775 | 171,646 | 169,504 |
| Barnehurst | 8,176 | 8,163 | 8,119 | 8,115 | 8,049 | 8,109 | 8,060 | 8,019 |
| Belvedere | 7,997 | 8,113 | 8,088 | 8,093 | 7,915 | 7,988 | 8,129 | 8,095 |
| Blackfen and Lamorbey | 8,047 | 8,063 | 8,027 | 8,080 | 8,013 | 8,096 | 8,129 | 8,009 |
| Blendon and Penhill | 8,267 | 8,273 | 8,238 | 8,238 | 8,291 | 8,341 | 8,309 | 8,270 |
| Brampton | 8,258 | 8,213 | 8,269 | 8,320 | 8,314 | 8,306 | 8,418 | 8,350 |
| Christchurch | 8,239 | 8,210 | 8,254 | 8,277 | 8,332 | 8,315 | 8,394 | 8,308 |
| Colyers | 8,066 | 8,048 | 8,105 | 8,154 | 8,221 | 8,175 | 8,163 | 8,002 |
| Crayford | 7,684 | 7,919 | 8,108 | 8,215 | 8,117 | 8,218 | 8,286 | 8,209 |
| Cray Meadows | 8,155 | 8,146 | 8,124 | 8,145 | 8,064 | 8,065 | 8,148 | 8,079 |
| Danson Park | 8,041 | 8,024 | 8,024 | 8,034 | 8,013 | 8,024 | 8,066 | 8,036 |
| East Wickham | 8,142 | 8,135 | 8,135 | 8,133 | 8,088 | 8,123 | 8,129 | 8,072 |
| Erith | 7,361 | 7,560 | 7,783 | 7,855 | 7,900 | 8,005 | 8,100 | 8,014 |
| Falconwood and Welling | 8,153 | 8,087 | 8,096 | 8,115 | 8,101 | 8,170 | 8,110 | 8,070 |
| Lesnes Abbey | 8,386 | 8,451 | 8,434 | 8,510 | 8,550 | 8,523 | 8,467 | 8,368 |
| Longlands | 7,885 | 7,882 | 7,758 | 7,815 | 7,641 | 7,797 | 7,984 | 8,039 |
| North End | 7,471 | 7,551 | 7,636 | 7,650 | 7,473 | 7,595 | 7,736 | 7,504 |
| Northumberland Heath | 7,904 | 7,886 | 7,905 | 7,914 | 7,940 | 7,934 | 7,977 | 7,796 |
| St. Mary's | 8,147 | 8,172 | 8,152 | 8,142 | 8,125 | 8,114 | 8,101 | 8,082 |
| St. Michael's | 8,040 | 8,023 | 8,025 | 8,039 | 7,996 | 8,088 | 8,120 | 7,972 |
| Sidcup | 8,365 | 8,339 | 8,257 | 8,260 | 8,316 | 8,366 | 8,409 | 8,283 |
| Thamesmead East | 7,760 | 8,072 | 8,337 | 8,495 | 8,301 | 8,423 | 8,411 | 7,927 |

[1] As created by The London Borough of Bexley (Electoral Changes) Order 2000

## Electorate: Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many electors were registered in each ward of Stroud constituency in each year since 1988. [315881]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold this information. The data in the following tables have been provided by the Boundary Commission for England from data compiled by the District of Stroud and supplied, originally, to the Office for National Statistics. It shows the number of electors who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each ward in the District of Stroud between 1988 and 2008.

*Ward Electorates*

| | *1988* | *1989* | *1990* | *1991* | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* | *1995* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stroud District[1] | 85,371 | 86,208 | 86,215 | 81,014 | 81,296 | 82,138 | 82,462 | 83,193 |
| Berkeley | 1,774 | 1,783 | 1,776 | 1,801 | 1,869 | 1,946 | 1,963 | 1,977 |
| Bisley | 1,794 | 1,843 | 1,694 | 1,685 | 1,696 | 1,696 | 1,701 | 1,737 |

*Ward Electorates*

| | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cainscross | 4,503 | 4,565 | 4,406 | 4,454 | 4,439 | 4,440 | 4,423 | 4,421 |
| Cam | 3,677 | 3,703 | 3,696 | 3,678 | 3,760 | 3,829 | 3,868 | 3,884 |
| Cambridge | 1,396 | 1,385 | 1,351 | 1,383 | 1,373 | 1,440 | 1,455 | 1,453 |
| Central | 3,885 | 3,953 | 1,035 | 1,028 | 1,091 | 1,093 | 1,113 | 1,168 |
| Chalford | 3,229 | 3,469 | 3,607 | 3,580 | 3,712 | 3,785 | 3,873 | 4,041 |
| Dursley | 4,420 | 4,449 | 4,473 | 4,397 | 4,412 | 4,441 | 4,473 | 4,498 |
| Eastington | 1,320 | 1,264 | 1,298 | 1,287 | 1,299 | 1,381 | 1,358 | 1,417 |
| Hardwicke | 7,333 | 7,775 | 7,893 | 2,734 | 2,762 | 2,777 | 2,772 | 2,722 |
| Hinton | 962 | 916 | 898 | 896 | 882 | 870 | 884 | 880 |
| King's Stanley | 2,805 | 2,836 | 2,878 | 2,858 | 2,857 | 2,878 | 2,912 | 2,943 |
| Leonard Stanley | 1,225 | 1,215 | 1,213 | 1,212 | 1,210 | 1,200 | 1,209 | 1,186 |
| Minchinhampton | 4,106 | 4,050 | 4,179 | 4,133 | 4,140 | 4,136 | 4,194 | 4,262 |
| Nailsworth | 4,849 | 4,932 | 4,676 | 4,686 | 4,721 | 4,780 | 4,813 | 4,821 |
| Nibley | 977 | 980 | 1,008 | 1,015 | 1,009 | 1,011 | 1,018 | 1,009 |
| Painswick | 3,581 | 3,535 | 3,487 | 3,435 | 3,416 | 3,440 | 3,382 | 3,425 |
| Parklands | 1,525 | 1,487 | 1,503 | 1,487 | 1,479 | 1,469 | 1,458 | 1,489 |
| Randwick | 1,128 | 1,102 | 1,316 | 1,232 | 1,221 | 1,172 | 1,180 | 1,171 |
| Rodborough | 1,457 | 1,463 | 4,281 | 4,294 | 4,324 | 4,331 | 4,311 | 4,318 |
| Severn | 1,883 | 1,895 | 1,905 | 1,898 | 1,882 | 1,910 | 1,903 | 1,928 |
| Stonehouse | 5,224 | 5,188 | 5,196 | 5,137 | 5,232 | 5,226 | 5,211 | 5,224 |
| Thrupp | 1,214 | 1,215 | 1,409 | 1,392 | 1,397 | 1,398 | 1,395 | 1,386 |
| Trinity | 3,938 | 3,936 | 3,826 | 3,843 | 3,883 | 3,858 | 3,860 | 3,918 |
| Uley | 1,209 | 1,213 | 1,197 | 1,168 | 1,179 | 1,207 | 1,232 | 1,254 |
| Uplands | 4,060 | 4,125 | 4,142 | 4,160 | 4,187 | 4,222 | 4,255 | 4,317 |
| Upton St. Leonards | 1,471 | 1,432 | 1,440 | 1,357 | 1,368 | 1,360 | 1,371 | 1,376 |
| Vale | 1,391 | 1,418 | 1,459 | 1,430 | 1,440 | 1,441 | 1,436 | 1,463 |
| Whiteshill | 986 | 993 | 992 | 973 | 971 | 944 | 943 | 953 |
| Woodfield | 2,628 | 2,623 | 2,585 | 2,616 | 2,668 | 2,667 | 2,642 | 2,664 |
| Wotton and Kingswood | 5,421 | 5,465 | 5,396 | 5,765 | 5,417 | 5,790 | 5,854 | 5,888 |

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stroud District[1] | 83,636 | 84,263 | 84,664 | 85,173 | 85,312 | 85,047 |
| Berkeley | 2,006 | 2,022 | 2,088 | 2,086 | 2,091 | 2,081 |
| Bisley | 1,726 | 1,745 | 1,755 | 1,709 | 1,796 | 1,751 |
| Cainscross | 4,436 | 4,440 | 4,450 | 4,466 | 4,457 | 4,427 |
| Cam | 3,880 | 3,944 | 3,941 | 3,983 | 3,982 | 3,957 |
| Cambridge | 1,465 | 1,485 | 1,507 | 1,528 | 1,526 | 1,528 |
| Central | 1,235 | 1,291 | 1,303 | 1,332 | 1,304 | 1,295 |
| Chalford | 4,168 | 4,332 | 4,360 | 4,475 | 4,598 | 4,722 |
| Dursley | 4,510 | 4,492 | 4,470 | 4,547 | 4,501 | 4,500 |
| Eastington | 1,415 | 1,444 | 1,491 | 1,471 | 1,447 | 1,406 |
| Hardwicke | 2,734 | 2,752 | 2,734 | 2,743 | 2,893 | 2,985 |
| Hinton | 883 | 876 | 882 | 885 | 903 | 889 |
| King's Stanley | 2,924 | 2,930 | 2,926 | 2,980 | 2,990 | 3,017 |
| Leonard Stanley | 1,211 | 1,228 | 1,228 | 1,221 | 1,240 | 1,217 |
| Minchinhampton | 4,291 | 4,243 | 4,275 | 4,299 | 4,259 | 4,186 |
| Nailsworth | 4,966 | 4,964 | 5,000 | 4,988 | 4,923 | 4,860 |
| Nibley | 1,015 | 991 | 1,004 | 1,000 | 1,003 | 959 |
| Painswick | 3,440 | 3,491 | 3,497 | 3,462 | 3,473 | 3,420 |
| Parklands | 1,532 | 1,587 | 1,625 | 1,704 | 1,703 | 1,702 |
| Randwick | 1,168 | 1,168 | 1,170 | 1,166 | 1,171 | 1,186 |
| Rodborough | 4,283 | 4,310 | 4,320 | 4,322 | 4,236 | 4,117 |
| Severn | 1,932 | 1,951 | 1,959 | 1,953 | 1,932 | 1,927 |
| Stonehouse | 5,224 | 5,251 | 5,263 | 5,300 | 5,405 | 5,481 |
| Thrupp | 1,387 | 1,390 | 1,410 | 1,403 | 1,383 | 1,433 |
| Trinity | 3,878 | 3,915 | 3,923 | 3,961 | 3,945 | 3,949 |
| Uley | 1,242 | 1,243 | 1,219 | 1,241 | 1,242 | 1,219 |
| Uplands | 4,332 | 4,402 | 4,493 | 4,525 | 4,551 | 4,530 |
| Upton St. Leonards | 1,347 | 1,351 | 1,346 | 1,355 | 1,356 | 1,345 |
| Vale | 1,465 | 1,460 | 1,459 | 1,479 | 1,472 | 1,455 |
| Whiteshill | 980 | 992 | 1,005 | 1,010 | 987 | 979 |
| Woodfield | 2,674 | 2,656 | 2,641 | 2,624 | 2,617 | 2,640 |
| Wotton and Kingswood | 5,887 | 5,917 | 5,920 | 5,955 | 5,926 | 5,884 |

[1] As created by The District of Stroud (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 and as amended by The Gloucestershire Districts (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1991.

*Ward Electorates*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stroud District[2] | 85,552 | 86,439 | 84,881 | 86,136 | 84,909 | 86,404 | 86,923 | 87,964 |
| Amberley and Woodchester | 1,754 | 1,755 | 1,719 | 1,722 | 1,711 | 1,750 | 1,740 | 1,700 |
| Berkeley | 3,299 | 3,338 | 3,263 | 3,320 | 3,254 | 3,326 | 3,307 | 3,332 |
| Bisley | 1,746 | 1,756 | 1,760 | 1,774 | 1,781 | 1,794 | 1,799 | 1,815 |
| Cainscross | 5,107 | 5,179 | 5,136 | 5,185 | 5,154 | 5,300 | 5,371 | 5,461 |
| Cam East | 3,318 | 3,310 | 3,259 | 3,300 | 3,247 | 3,277 | 3,267 | 3,264 |
| Cam West | 3,294 | 3,313 | 3,231 | 3,232 | 3,156 | 3,242 | 3,220 | 3,230 |
| Central | 1,386 | 1,409 | 1,419 | 1,471 | 1,440 | 1,416 | 1,466 | 1,475 |
| Chalford | 4,935 | 5,003 | 4,921 | 4,961 | 4,896 | 4,994 | 5,013 | 5,044 |
| Coaley and Uley | 1,856 | 1,870 | 1,836 | 1,859 | 1,862 | 1,882 | 1,877 | 1,879 |
| Dursley | 4,539 | 4,670 | 4,516 | 4,568 | 4,406 | 4,568 | 4,744 | 4,907 |
| Eastington and Standish | 1,514 | 1,515 | 1,481 | 1,459 | 1,486 | 1,493 | 1,463 | 1,398 |
| Farmhill and Paganhill | 1,753 | 1,738 | 1,678 | 1,738 | 1,650 | 1,661 | 1,696 | 1,706 |
| Hardwicke | 3,575 | 3,651 | 3,590 | 3,742 | 3,667 | 3,719 | 3,736 | 3,739 |
| Kingswood | 1,568 | 1,580 | 1,541 | 1,559 | 1,574 | 1,575 | 1,559 | 1,582 |
| Minchinhampton | 3,350 | 3,410 | 3,378 | 3,429 | 3,408 | 3,443 | 3,493 | 3,557 |
| Nailsworth | 4,897 | 4,907 | 4,849 | 4,936 | 4,852 | 5,005 | 5,066 | 5,239 |
| Over Stroud | 1,430 | 1,427 | 1,412 | 1,451 | 1,438 | 1,434 | 1,423 | 1,435 |
| Painswick | 3,404 | 3,420 | 3,384 | 3,467 | 3,461 | 3,519 | 3,585 | 3,644 |
| Rodborough | 3,547 | 3,521 | 3,461 | 3,500 | 3,444 | 3,500 | 3,473 | 3,516 |
| Severn | 3,536 | 3,591 | 3,553 | 3,672 | 3,661 | 3,684 | 3,710 | 3,734 |
| Slade | 1,663 | 1,674 | 1,594 | 1,600 | 1,535 | 1,557 | 1,589 | 1,589 |
| Stonehouse | 5,572 | 5,717 | 5,680 | 5,801 | 5,685 | 5,823 | 5,893 | 5,914 |
| The Stanleys | 3,447 | 3,459 | 3,355 | 3,354 | 3,303 | 3,373 | 3,350 | 3,312 |
| Thrupp | 1,801 | 1,810 | 1,806 | 1,786 | 1,766 | 1,812 | 1,818 | 1,831 |
| Trinity | 1,621 | 1,625 | 1,528 | 1,551 | 1,522 | 1,603 | 1,613 | 1,665 |
| Uplands | 1,741 | 1,759 | 1,727 | 1,720 | 1,666 | 1,696 | 1,695 | 1,698 |
| Upton St. Leonards | 1,800 | 1,803 | 1,786 | 1,814 | 1,797 | 1,812 | 1,807 | 2,020 |
| Vale | 1,454 | 1,443 | 1,436 | 1,484 | 1,489 | 1,485 | 1,484 | 1,500 |
| Valley | 1,667 | 1,695 | 1,560 | 1,624 | 1,566 | 1,601 | 1,620 | 1,716 |
| Wotton-under-Edge | 4,978 | 5,091 | 5,022 | 5,057 | 5,032 | 5,060 | 5,046 | 5,062 |

[2] As created by The District of Stroud (Parishes and Electoral Changes) Order 2001 and as altered by The Stroud (Parish Electoral Arrangements and Electoral Changes) Order 2008.

## Government Departments: Internet

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much she plans to spend on the use of new media to undertake public consultation in the next three years. [315086]

**Tessa Jowell:** Departmental spending plans are only available for the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, and current projected figures for the use of new media regarding public consultations are not available.

## Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format provided by her Department to the Iraq Inquiry that Inquiry has sought to publish under the procedure set out in the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; and if she will make a statement; [314545]

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many requests the Iraq Inquiry has made for the disclosure of classified documents under the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information; [314896]

(2) how many classified documents have been passed to the Iraq Inquiry which may not be disclosed under the protocol on documents and other written and electronic information. [314897]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Government have made clear that the Inquiry will have access to every Government document or electronic record that it wishes, regardless of classification; Government Departments have already provided most of the information the Inquiry has requested and arrangements are in place to ensure that the remainder they hold is provided as quickly as possible. Requests from the Inquiry for declassification of documents are being handled in accordance with the Protocol agreed between the Government and the Inquiry, which is available on the Cabinet Office's website and a copy is in the Library of the House.

## Iraq Committee of Inquiry: Mass Media

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what arrangements are in place for the provision of footage obtained from the broadcast pool camera at the Iraq Inquiry to news agencies and news providers; [314411][1]

(2) if she will make it her policy to ensure that all video news agencies providers have access to low-resolution footage from the broadcast pool camera at the Iraq Inquiry. [314412]

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[1] *[Official Report, 1 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 12MC.]*

**Tessa Jowell:** The Cabinet Office is not responsible for the broadcast footage of the Iraq Inquiry. The UK Broadcasting Pool, a partnership between the BBC, Sky News and ITN, is responsible for distributing footage from their cameras in the Inquiry's hearing room. Other broadcasters would need to make arrangements with the pool, not the Government or the Inquiry. There is already an agreement to provide footage to all Iraqi broadcasters at no cost.

The Cabinet Office, as the sponsoring department for the Inquiry, has a contract with the Pool to receive footage for use on the Iraq Inquiry website, which is made available to the public for free.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers: Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the supplementary letter of 21 October 2008 from her Department in its written evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications HL 7, what her most recent estimate is of the number of special advisers whose responsibilities are primarily in communications. [315318]

**Tessa Jowell:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 414W.

### Public Sector: Internet

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public sector websites have been discontinued since her Department announced its plans to rationalise the overall number; and on what date each was discontinued. [315326]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mark Lund, dated 2 February 2010:*

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315326] asking which public sector websites have been discontinued since her Department announced its plans to rationalise the overall number: and on what dates each was discontinued.

Each government department is responsible for undertaking Website Reviews and packaging their information and communications in a form that is easy to understand and find. As a consequence, many central government websites migrate their content onto more appropriate and easily findable locations, including businesslink.gov.uk, Directgov and third parties. The list of central government websites reported as being closed up to 7th August 2009 was placed in Parliament's Library in August 2009, although a record of the date on which each was discontinued is not held centrally.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies Enterprise Trust

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he last inspected the accounts of the Academies Enterprise Trust; [316397]

(2) if he will list the salaries of *(a)* the Chief Executive and *(b)* other senior officials of the Academies Enterprise Trust in each of the last three financial years. [316442]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* All Academy Trusts (which includes Charitable Trusts running more than one Academy) are required to publish annual accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Charity Commission has published a "Statement of Recommended Practice" which clarifies how charities should prepare their accounts in order to reflect these legal requirements. The Statement of Recommended Practice states that charities which are subject to a statutory audit should include a note in their accounts disclosing the number of employees whose emoluments were £60,000 or above, presented in £10,000 bandings. The Department expects Academy Trusts to comply with the "Statement of Recommended Practice".

The Academies Enterprises Trust comprises Greensward Academy, Maltings Academy and New Rickstones Academy, which opened in September 2008 and Clacton Coast which opened in September 2009. For the Academies that opened in 2008, their first annual report and accounts will cover the period 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009. The Academies Enterprise Trust was required to submit their accounts to the Department by 31 December 2009 for academies that opened in 2008. The accounts have been received by the Department but have not yet been finalised. Once finalised, they will be published on the Charities Commission's website.

For the Clacton Coastal Academy, audited accounts are due to be with the Department by 31 December 2010.

### Academies: South East

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding for academies in South East England has been provided by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* sponsors since the inception of the academy scheme. [315763]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are 24 open academies in south-east England with a further 13 in development. To date, the amount of funding provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for these academies is £613,448,699. This includes the capital costs for new buildings that have been completed or where construction has started. The total funding provided to date by the sponsors of academies in south-east England is £15,228,849.

### Departmental Buildings

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* their agencies spent on (i) cleaning, (ii) electricity and (iii) heating in each of the last 12 years. [303930]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information is as follows:

The data was requested for the last 12 years, however, the Department is only able to supply 10 years and is only required to retain financial records and original documentation for six years after the end of the financial year in which the transaction took place.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of government change and the expenditure recorded includes those of the two predecessor Departments, the Department for Education and Employment (DFEE) and the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

The expenditure for 2007-08 and 2008-09 also includes any costs incurred by the Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

|  | Heating | Electric | Cleaning £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999/2000 | 167,205 | 1,187,157 | 533,316 |
| 2000/01 | 205,799 | 845,288 | 534,722 |
| 2001/02 | 217,364 | 968,905 | 626,450 |
| 2002/03 | 207,702 | 916,600 | 793,366 |
| 2003/04 | 200,341 | 891,855 | 830,681 |
| 2004/05 | 269,672 | 1,186,467 | 1,037,114 |
| 2005/06 | 224,323 | 1,296,242 | 1,060,495 |
| 2006/07 | 317,450 | 1,828,640 | 1,233,339 |
| 2007/08 | 292,058 | 2,405,021 | 774,583 |
| 2008/09 | 256,624 | 2,591,851 | 795,217 |

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department was of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in the 2008-09 financial year. [302978]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The total cost on the provision of office facilities to special advisers and press officers during the last 2008-09 financial year amounted to £126,381.44.

## Health Education: Sex

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the role of local education authorities in determining the curriculum for sex and relationships education under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [309604]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Children, Schools and Families (CSF) Bill makes no provision for local authorities to have a role in determining the content of schools' sex and relationships education (SRE) programmes.

## Hotels

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* their agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) their agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309056]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The data requested was for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. The data starts from July when Expotel took over the hotel booking contract for the department. Data prior to July can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The data has been provided by the Department's hotel booking agent Expotel.

The number of hotel room nights booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor is:

*DCSF*

|  | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 8,073 |
| 2008 | 11,558 |
| 2009 | 6,023 |

*(b)* Their agencies in each year since 2007 are:

|  | Number |
|---|---|
| *Qualifications and Curriculum Authority* |  |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 1,425 |
| 2009 | 2,137 |
| *National Measurement Office* |  |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 96 |
| 2009 | 0 |
| *11 Million* |  |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 32 |
| 2009 | 0 |
| *Ofsted* |  |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 19,395 |
| 2009 | 17,441 |
| *Learning and Skills Council* |  |
| 2007 | 7,422 |
| 2008 | 7,146 |
| 2009 | 4,234 |
| *CAFCASS* |  |
| 2007 | 72 |
| 2008 | 1,183 |
| 2009 | 2,380 |
| *School Food Trust* |  |
| 2007 | 10 |
| 2008 | 14 |
| 2009 | 0 |

There are no fees incurred as the service for booking accommodation is free of charge.

## Personal Social and Health Education

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what role governors would have in determining the curriculum in the understanding physical development, health and well-being area of learning in primary schools under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [309710]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill, the governing body of every maintained school would have a duty to exercise its functions with a view to securing that the curriculum meets the statutory requirements set out in the programmes of study for each of the areas of learning, including understanding physical development, health and well-being.

### Pre-school Education

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much of the dedicated schools grant will be allocated for the delivery of the three to four year-old nursery entitlement in 2010-11; [316089]

(2) much of the dedicated schools grant will be allocated for under five year-olds in 2010-11. [316090]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is allocated to local authorities and is distributed using a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for each authority. The Government do not fund local authorities according to the age or phase of education of pupils but we fund local authorities a single guaranteed unit of funding for the number of pupils on roll. It is then for local authorities to fund the provision of education for three to 16 year-olds in their area via their local funding formula, which includes the provision of free entitlement for three and four year-olds.

Final figures for 2010-11 are not yet available but our indicative figures can be found on

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/dsg200811/

### Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent per pupil in each local authority area in the South East in each year since 1997. [315775]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information on how much has been spent per pupil in each local authority in the south-east is shown in the following table:

*Combined LEA and school based expenditure*

| | *1992-93* | *1993-94* | *1994-95* | *1995-96* | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *[1]1999-2000* | *2000-01* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 2,640 | 2,710 | 2,690 | 2,660 | 2,690 | 2,710 | 2,850 | 2,800 | 2,980 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Berkshire | 2,470 | 2,620 | 2,590 | 2,510 | 2,580 | 2,560 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bracknell Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,660 | 2,730 | 2,960 |
| Brighton and Hove | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,880 | 3,010 | 2,940 | 3,060 |
| Buckinghamshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,750 | 2,800 | 2,720 | 2,860 |
| East Sussex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,670 | 2,760 | 2,840 | 2,990 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,660 | 2,730 | 2,620 | 2,730 |
| Isle of Wight | 2,560 | 2,690 | 2,650 | 2,590 | 2,650 | 2,730 | 2,870 | 2,820 | 3,080 |
| Kent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,000 | 2,700 | 2,850 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,630 | 2,580 | 2,880 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,530 | 2,680 | 2,730 | 2,750 |
| Oxfordshire | 2,780 | 2,760 | 2,740 | 2,610 | 2,630 | 2,690 | 2,750 | 2,670 | 2,880 |
| Portsmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,810 | 2,950 | 2,870 | 3,020 |
| Pre LGR Bucks | 2,680 | 2,730 | 2,790 | 2,660 | 2,670 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pre LGR East Sussex | 2,680 | 2,780 | 2,730 | 2,750 | 2,770 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pre LGR Hampshire | 2,590 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,620 | 2,660 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pre LGR Kent | 2,460 | 2,630 | 2,660 | 2,680 | 2,710 | 2,710 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reading | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,860 | 2,960 | 3,000 |
| Slough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,190 | 3,040 | 3,290 |
| Southampton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,720 | 2,880 | 2,850 | 3,130 |
| Surrey | 2,850 | 2,970 | 2,880 | 2,900 | 2,840 | 2,800 | 2,940 | 2,710 | 2,820 |
| West Berkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,600 | 2,690 | 2,830 |
| West Sussex | 2,530 | 2,630 | 2,630 | 2,610 | 2,630 | 2,670 | 2,760 | 2,710 | 2,830 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,810 | 2,840 | 3,070 |
| Wokingham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,520 | 2,690 | 2,850 |

| | *2001-02* | *[1]2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 3,290 | 3,440 | 3,890 | 4,140 | 4,450 | 4,710 | 5,050 | 5,340 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Berkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3,180 | 3,280 | 3,760 | 4,010 | 4,350 | 4,640 | 4,830 | 5,060 |
| Brighton and Hove | 3,380 | 3,400 | 4,000 | 4,210 | 4,500 | 4,650 | 5,010 | 5,150 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3,180 | 3,390 | 3,730 | 4,130 | 4,620 | 4,580 | 4,820 | 4,980 |
| East Sussex | 3,300 | 3,340 | 3,840 | 4,140 | 4,370 | 4,660 | 4,850 | 5,120 |
| Hampshire | 3,000 | 3,220 | 3,530 | 3,750 | 4,000 | 4,190 | 4,490 | 4,800 |
| Isle of Wight | 3,390 | 3,490 | 3,870 | 4,090 | 4,490 | 4,840 | 5,180 | 5,540 |
| Kent | 3,150 | 3,290 | 3,710 | 3,940 | 4,210 | 4,450 | 4,700 | 5,070 |
| Medway | 3,140 | 3,300 | 3,820 | 4,100 | 4,370 | 4,560 | 4,830 | 5,070 |
| Milton Keynes | 3,200 | 3,170 | 3,660 | 4,000 | 4,230 | 4,610 | 4,910 | 5,200 |

| | 2001-02 | [1]2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oxfordshire | 3,150 | 3,370 | 3,860 | 4,070 | 4,310 | 4,490 | 4,780 | 5,030 |
| Portsmouth | 3,400 | 3,700 | 4,030 | 4,260 | 4,560 | 4,590 | 4,870 | 5,170 |
| Pre LGR Bucks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pre LGR East Sussex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pre LGR Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pre LGR Kent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reading | 3,340 | 3,750 | 4,040 | 4,420 | 4,760 | 5,060 | 5,170 | 5,540 |
| Slough | 3,680 | 3,840 | 4,310 | 4,590 | 4,750 | 4,840 | 5,080 | 5,500 |
| Southampton | 3,430 | 2,980 | 4,110 | 4,450 | 4,650 | 4,900 | 5,280 | 5,580 |
| Surrey | 3,140 | 3,380 | 3,610 | 3,850 | 4,140 | 4,320 | 4,680 | 4,980 |
| West Berkshire | 3,210 | 3,390 | 3,720 | 4,030 | 4,160 | 4,540 | 4,800 | 4,950 |
| West Sussex | 3,000 | 3,200 | 3,560 | 3,800 | 4,140 | 4,400 | 4,700 | 4,810 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 3,350 | 3,520 | 3,850 | 4,090 | 4,360 | 4,560 | 4,940 | 5,100 |
| Wokingham | 3,090 | 3,210 | 3,530 | 3,740 | 4,170 | 4,320 | 4,600 | 4,660 |

[1] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 to the Section 52 Outturn collection from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.

*Notes:*

1. The information used in the chart has been drawn from CLG's RO1 form (1992-93 to 1999-2000.

2. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under 5s funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DCSF Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under 5 pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only included for 1999-2000 onwards. For 1995-96 onwards other LA maintained pupils are included in the pupil count. This includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from the Form 8b submitted to the DCSF. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained mainstream school drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

3. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990's and those LAs that did not exist either pre or post LGR have no expenditure for those years.

4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

### Qualifications and Curriculum Framework: Finance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Agency, *(c)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(d)* the Learning and Skills Improvement Service have spent on the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework (QCF) in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how much each organisation has allocated to QCF for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [309513]

**Kevin Brennan:** Figures are given in the following table. The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is a new way of recognising achievement through the award of credit for units and qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The QCF was approved by Ministers in November 2008, following two years of test and trial led by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA). Figures for 2009-10 are based on actual expenditure up to November 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, plus forecast expenditure for the remainder of the financial year. No figures are yet available for 2010-11 or 2011-12 for BIS, the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) or Ofqual. In the case of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS), BIS will be making £46.85 million available in 2010-11 for all of LSIS' needs, and it will be for LSIS itself to determine how much—a very small proportion of that total—it spends on QCF. No figure has yet been determined for LSIS' budget in 2011-12. Expenditure by QCDA on QCF in 2010-11 and 2011-12 will be zero.

*Actual and forecast expenditure on the Qualifications and Credit Framework*

*£ million*

| | 2007-08 (Actual) | 2008-09 (Actual) | 2009-10 (Forecast) |
|---|---|---|---|
| BIS | 0.12 | 0.82 | 1.60 |
| QCDA | 2.93 | 2.96 | 2.42 |
| Ofqual[1] | — | — | 3.43 |
| LSC/SFA | 0.00 | 3.64 | 13.77 |
| LSIS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.43 |

[1] Ofqual's allocation is shown separately from QCDA for 2009-10 as it was operationally separate

### Schools: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what forms were sent to schools by his Department for headteachers to complete in each year from 2006 to date; and if he will make a statement. [304736]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Social Services: Children

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many allegations of conduct warranting a child social services investigation have been received by local authority social services in each of the last five years. [315249]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 3 February 2010]:* The Department does not collect this information.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of births were in areas where a children's centre was operational in the last 12 months; what percentage of such births were reported to local children's services and children's centres; and if he will make a statement. [315356]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 3 February 2010]:* Sure Start children's centres are becoming a universal service for all young children and their families. At the end of December 2009, there were 3,381 designated children's centres and we are on track to reach our target 3,500 centres by March 2010. All children born in England will therefore soon have access to early childhood services through their local children's centre.

The Department does not collect information nationally on how much data are reported from the NHS to children's centres. But health services are part of the children's centre core offer, with health visitors in children's centres playing a key role delivering the 'Healthy Child Programme' (the evidenced-based child public health programme offered to all families from pregnancy to five years of age) and making the vital first link to the wide range of services on offer including antenatal and postnatal care.

Information sharing is crucial and we plan to publish a leaflet shortly focusing on health, children's centres and information sharing. Its target audience will include health visitors and midwives because of their unique early interaction with all new parents and it will set out minimum standards we expect centres and health professionals to adhere to, in terms of sharing and retaining birth data. This leaflet is designed to be read alongside the cross-Government guidance on information sharing which is the overall authority in this area. The guidance can be found at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/informationsharing.

### Teachers: Early Retirement

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of teachers who have taken early retirement from each type of institution in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk, *(c)* Essex, *(d)* Cambridgeshire, *(e)* Bedfordshire, *(f)* Hertfordshire and *(g)* England in each year since 1997. [314873]

**Mr. Coaker:** A table giving the number of teachers awarded early retirement benefits from the teachers' pensions scheme in each local authority in the east of England Government office region and England in each year from 1996/97 to 2008/09, the latest information available, has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Teachers: Training

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of guidance on capability procedures for teachers issued by his Department. [316195]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The Department's guidance on the capability procedures for teachers is readily available in the public domain and can be found at the following link:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFEE 0125/2000

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many meetings of *(a)* the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and *(b)* its sub-committees have taken place since 1 November 2008; [312107]

(2) what steps he is taking to fill the vacancies on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; and when he expects those vacancies to be filled; [312109]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the vacancies on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs on the functioning of the Council. [312110]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has had the following meetings since 1 November 2008:

*The ACMD*

25 November 2008
23 and 24 March 2009
14 May 2009
19 June 2009
10 November 2009
14 December 2009

*The Technical Committee*

10 March 2008
6 July 2009
29 October 2009

*The Prevention Working group - Hepatitis*

22 January 2009

*Anabolic Steroids Working Group*

1 April 2009
1 October 2009

*Pathways to Problems Working Group*

10 June 2009

*Cognitive Enhancers Working Group*

8 August 2009
8 October 2009

*New Psychoactive Substances Working Group*

8 August 2009
8 October 2009

*Polysubstance Use Working Group*

30 August 2009

I understand that the ACMD is scheduled to meet to discuss the cathinones in February and has a Technical Committee and ACMD meeting scheduled for March.

A recruitment campaign has been initiated to fill the statutory positions on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Adverts will be placed for the positions by early February 2010. The appointment of new members will be made following open competition, and will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Office of the Commission for Public Appointments (OCPA). The process will be scrutinised by an Independent Public Appointments Assessor. It is expected that these vacancies will be filled within three months of advertising.

I met with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) on 10 November to discuss, and agree, ways in which the Council would function in the future. The outcome of this meeting is published in a joint statement

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/Joint_Statement_-_ACMD_HSec.pdf

The chair of the ACMD has stated that it is continuing to work to advise Government on issues concerning harmful drugs. As is normal practice, the ACMD can co-opt members where specific expertise is required and it is expected that new ACMD members will be recruited over the coming months. I therefore do not believe it is necessary to make any further assessment of the effects of the vacancies on the functioning of the ACMD.

## Alcohol Disorder Zones

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol disorder zones are in force. [313347]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]*: There are currently no Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs) in place.

ADZs came into force in June 2008 and the Home Office has been clear that an ADZ should only be used as a measure of last resort, after all other tools and powers have been tried. The Government are aware that a number of local areas have threatened to impose an ADZ, in order to achieve compliance from the licensed trade. To support areas, the Home Office is running a series of 50 alcohol enforcement workshops in our alcohol priority areas, in order to ensure that frontline agencies are aware of the full range of powers they have available to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder, and to ensure that those powers are used effectively.

Additionally, I recently announced the introduction of the mandatory code of practice for the alcohol industry, in order to ensure that irresponsible practices by the licensed trade are prohibited.

## Anti-terrorism Control Orders

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police force was responsible for the enforcement of the control order in the case of each of the seven individuals who have absconded from an order. [316088]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Metropolitan police force was responsible for the enforcement of four of the seven control orders. It is not possible to provide a further breakdown of the police forces responsible because of the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

The written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007, 17 September 2007, 12 December 2007 and 10 March 2008 gave further information about the seven control order absconds.

## Assaults on Police: Sick Leave

✓

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sickness days were taken consequent on assaults on *(a)* police and *(b)* community support officers in each police force in each of the last five years. [312989]

**Mr. Hanson:** The available data are given in the table. Data are collected only for 'all officers' and 'all staff'. CSO's are counted, but not separately, under 'all staff'.

*Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults from 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | 2004-05 | 2005/06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 464 | n/a | 21 | 566 | 751 |
| Bedfordshire | 112 | 184 | 178 | 219 | 62 |
| Cambridgeshire | 194 | 284 | 62 | 120 | 25 |
| Cheshire | 755 | 575 | 115 | 75 | 112 |
| Cleveland | n/a | n/a | n/a | 77 | 108 |
| Cumbria | 46 | 150 | n/a | n/a | 341 |
| Derbyshire | 262 | 351 | 236 | 143 | 281 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 136 | 64 | 334 | 188 | 31 |
| Dorset | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Durham | 101 | 28 | 63 | 138 | 161 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 274 | 93 | 97 | 154 | 161 |
| Essex | 305 | 301 | 248 | 252 | 189 |
| Gloucestershire | 182 | 199 | 165 | 47 | 16 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,702 | 1,127 | 947 | 832 | 2,074 |
| Gwent | 426 | 417 | n/a | 122 | n/a |
| Hampshire | 278 | 302 | 252 | 191 | n/a |
| Hertfordshire | 134 | 85 | 186 | n/a | n/a |
| Humberside | 133 | 156 | n/a | n/a | 126 |
| Kent | 412 | [illegible] | 748 | 431 | 400 |
| Lancashire | 1,330 | 1,095 | 603 | 596 | 472 |
| Leicestershire | n/a | 193 | 274 | n/a | 177 |
| Lincolnshire | 95 | 88 | 211 | 344 | 233 |
| London, City of | 44 | 43 | 13 | 2 | 44 |
| Merseyside | 195 | 184 | n/a | 407 | 534 |
| Metropolitan Police | 3,401 | n/a | 7,647 | 5,848 | 6,388 |
| Norfolk | 272 | 41 | 67 | 162 | 65 |
| Northamptonshire | 20 | 4 | 29 | 6 | 20 |
| Northumbria | 368 | 290 | 905 | 1,075 | 330 |
| North Wales | 160 | 158 | 323 | 133 | n/a |
| North Yorkshire | 102 | n/a | 137 | n/a | n/a |
| Nottinghamshire | 303 | 145 | n/a | 179 | 194 |
| South Wales | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 87 |
| South Yorkshire | 183 | 160 | 104 | 60 | 209 |
| Staffordshire | 446 | 285 | 299 | 174 | 115 |
| Suffolk | 26 | 5 | 213 | 208 | 240 |
| Surrey | 98 | 32 | 20 | 69 | 14 |
| Sussex | 544 | 334 | 109 | 276 | 329 |
| Thames Valley | 159 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 168 |
| Warwickshire | 8 | 63 | 715 | 24 | 29 |
| West Mercia | 992 | 467 | 446 | 354 | 122 |
| West Midlands | 1,502 | 1,313 | 1,419 | 1,166 | 1,200 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,383 | 974 | 725 | 691 | 1,048 |
| Wiltshire | 152 | 37 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

n/a = data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

[1] Provisional data taken from a supplementary series collected on behalf of HMIC and used for inspection purposes only. Data have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces), except where there are large rises or falls, and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

*Number of police staff working days lost due to assaults[1] from 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 81 | 0 | 5 | 71 | 133 |
| Bedfordshire | 10 | 0 | 3 | 0 | n/a |
| Cambridgeshire | 36 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| Cheshire | 2 | 42 | 0 | 3 | 17 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 6 | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 82 | 16 | 0 | 18 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| Dorset | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Durham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| Essex | 14 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 5 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | 149 | 2 | 10 | n/a |
| Greater Manchester | 133 | 83 | 94 | 60 | 78 |
| Gwent | 5 | 13 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Hampshire | 21 | 4 | 3 | 22 | n/a |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| Humberside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 369 | 62 |
| Kent | 0 | 41 | 40 | 0 | n/a |
| Lancashire | 86 | 110 | 0 | 13 | 26 |
| Leicestershire | n/a | 0 | 46 | 0 | 2 |
| Lincolnshire | 20 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| Merseyside | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Metropolitan Police | 305 | n/a | 299 | 802 | 347 |
| Norfolk | 13 | 0 | 22 | 2 | 21 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Northumbria | 7 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 30 |
| North Wales | 31 | 0 | 0 | 20 | n/a |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| Nottinghamshire | 9 | 18 | n/a | 3 | 5 |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a | 5 |
| South Yorkshire | 6 | 0 | 0 | 25[illegible] | n/a |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Surrey | 0 | 0 | 90 | 1 | n/a |
| Sussex | 0 | 0 | 17 | 8 | 0 |
| Thames Valley | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 | 15 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 16 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 7 | 32 | 20 | 12 |
| West Midlands | 126 | 97 | 113 | 147 | 200 |
| West Yorkshire | 173 | 18 | 47 | 5 | 60 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

n/a = data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

[1] Provisional data taken from a supplementary series collected on behalf of HMIC and used for inspection purposes only. Data have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces), except where there are large rises or falls, and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

## Control Orders

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost per day is of providing 24-hour surveillance of a controllee subject to a control order. [316656]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government do not comment on the details of terrorism-related operational matters.

## DNA: Databases

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the prison population had a profile stored on the National DNA Database on the latest date for which figures are available. [313454]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The purpose of the national DNA database (NDNAD) is to match DNA profiles taken from individuals with those taken from crime scenes. It holds only the information necessary for this function, and does not contain criminal records or information on whether those on it are in prison.

However, there are good reasons for believing that a significant majority of the prison population has a profile on the NDNAD. Police forces have had the power to retain DNA taken from those convicted of recordable offences since the establishment of the DNA database in 1995. For the first few years this power was exercised in relation to more serious offenders, but from 2000 onwards additional funding was made available under the DNA expansion programme to make it standard practice to take samples from all offenders. In April 2004, the law was changed to allow DNA samples to be taken from all those arrested for recordable offences. Following this, taking a DNA sample in the custody suite has become routine procedure. In addition, two prisoner sampling projects have been undertaken, most recently in 2003, to take DNA from any prisoner who had not already been sampled, for example because they had been imprisoned before DNA sampling was widely practiced.

Legal powers have existed since 1996 to take DNA samples from those in prison. The Crime and Security Bill currently before Parliament allows samples to be taken from those convicted of sexual and violent offences before 1995 even if they are no longer in prison.

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people with a profile on the National DNA Database have never been convicted of a crime. [315672]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 4 February 2010]*: The national DNA database (NDNAD) is designed to match DNA taken from crime scenes with that taken from individuals. It does not hold information on whether those with records on it have convictions, as this is not necessary for this purpose. Data on convictions is held on the Police National Computer (PNC).

Some data on whether those on the NDNAD have convictions are available from the Police National Computer (PNC) but not as part of the PNC's routine functions. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) obtains this information periodically, usually once per year. To obtain it more frequently would incur disproportionate cost.

The most recent figures available for England and Wales show that at 24 April 2009 there were an estimated 4,587,430 persons on the NDNAD, of whom 79 per cent. (an estimated 3,601,245 persons) had a current conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC. The remaining 21 per cent. (an estimated 986,185 persons) includes those people who have been convicted and have had their records deleted, those against whom proceedings are still ongoing, and those who have never been convicted.

### Forced Marriage

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people affected by forced marriage have received *(a)* direct assistance from the Forced Marriage Unit and *(b)* assistance from third sector organisations funded by the Forced Marriage Unit. [315081]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** In 2009, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) helpline gave advice and support in 1,682 separate instances of possible forced marriage (this figure counts multiple calls on one case as one "instance") and the unit itself dealt with 375 cases of forced marriage. The FMU is committed to working closely with the third sector to provide victims with the full range of support and assistance and has increased funding to third sector organisation over recent years.

It is not possible to provide statistics for the number of people affected by forced marriage who received assistance from third sector organisations funded by the unit in financial year 2009-10. This is because the projects are ongoing and the outcomes of the projects are not necessarily quantifiable in these terms. Funds were provided, for instance, for projects designed to increase awareness of forced marriage and appropriate responses to it among various professional, peer and community groups. It is not possible to accurately assess the number of individuals engaged by these projects that have themselves already been directly affected by forced marriage. Going forward, the FMU are working with Governmental and non-governmental partners to build the best statistical picture possible.

### Fraud

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many counterfeit *(a)* passports and *(b)* driving licences have been confiscated in each year since 1998-99; and how many counterfeit identity cards have been confiscated. [314773]

**Alan Johnson:** The number of counterfeit UK passports identified in the UK and recorded by UK Border Agency (UKBA) since 2000 are shown in the following table. No figures are available prior to 2000. The figure for 2009 is up until the end of September. No data is recorded in respect of counterfeit passports recovered overseas.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 11 |
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 7 |
| 2003 | 0 |
| 2004 | 9 |
| 2005 | 6 |
| 2006 | 7 |
| 2007 | 13 |
| 2008 | 23 |
| 2009 | 15 |
| Total | 91 |

The following table provides the number of counterfeit driving licences referred to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in the last four years.

No figures are available prior to 2006.

| | *Counterfeit photocard licence* | *Counterfeit paper counterpart to licence* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 205 | 5 |
| 2007 | 104 | 4 |
| 2008 | 94 | 4 |
| 2009 | 87 | 3 |
| Totals | 490 | 16 |

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) began publicly issuing Identity Cards to UK Nationals on 30 November 2009. To date IPS have not identified or confiscated any counterfeit cards. The UKBA began issuing Identity Cards to foreign nationals on 25 November 2008. To date UKBA have not identified or confiscated any counterfeit cards.

### Methadone

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment he has made of the risks of the recreational use of methadone; [314415]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the classification of methadone; and if he will make a statement. [314416]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Based on the hon. Member's subsequent clarification, this answer addresses mephedrone, not methadone.

Mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) is a stimulant drug which is structurally related to cathinone and methcathinone, both of which are controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), whom we are required by statute to consult before bringing forward legislation under the 1971 Act to Parliament, is currently considering the harms of mephedrone and related cathinone compounds as a priority. The ACMD's latest letter on its consideration of these drugs is available at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/acmd/acmdmephedrone2835.pdf?view=Binary

In addition to the ACMD's letter, representations have been received from Members of Parliament and the public.

### Passports: Concessions

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to extend the entitlement to a free passport to those who are over the age of 80 years after September 2009. [316013]

**Meg Hillier:** The free passport scheme is a special concession that was introduced in 2004 initially to assist Second World War veterans who were travelling to 60th anniversary commemorative events, such as those visiting the Normandy landing beaches. It was extended to cover all those born on or before 2 September 1929 who would have been aged 16 or over at the end of the second World War in Europe and so were old enough by the end of the war to have made a substantial contribution to the national effort either by being in the armed forces or civilian employment.

This scheme was intended as a recognition of the contribution of second world war veterans rather than being an age related concession and, accordingly, there are no plans to extend it to those who will be over 80 after September 2009. Any extension would be considerably more expensive and would have to be financed by increasing passport fees for other applicants.

However, we have now started to issue identity cards to British citizens that are valid for travel in Europe at a fee of £30 compared to the passport fee of £77.50. Currently identity cards are available to anyone resident in the United Kingdom who holds a valid or recently expired passport and has registered an interest on the Identity and Passport Service website at:

https://info.ips.gov.uk/ipscw/reg

or does so before 30 June 2010. It is intended that by 2012 that anyone applying for a passport will be offered the choice of being issued with an identity card or passport or both documents.

### Police: Training

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of training *(a)* a police officer, *(b)* a community support officer and *(c)* a special constable is in England and Wales. [315643]

**Alan Johnson:** The Initial Police Training and Development Programme (IPLDP) form the basis of initial training for *(a)* a police officer *(b)* a police community support officer and *(c)* a special constable in England and Wales.

From April 2006 the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) assisted the rollout of the IPLDP to all 43 Home Office forces. Each police force has the autonomy as to the way they meet/exceed the standards set out in the IPLDP curriculum and the amount that they spend.

To help support the delivery of the learning programme, from April 2008 to March 2011 the Home Office has a central supplementary fund of £16.2 million which is currently distributed according to each police force's average recruitment during 2006-08. Central provision of training was discontinued in 2006. This information is not held centrally.

## HEALTH

### Ambulance Services: Standards

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of which ambulance trusts performance in meeting the target for responding to category A calls has declined since October 2007. [316019]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Ambulance response time statistics are published annually reporting performance over a full financial year, therefore is not available for the time period requested. The annual statistics also report against two category A standards for urgent and emergency incidents; receiving a response at the scene of the incident within eight minutes 75 per cent. of the time, and if the patient requires transport this should arrive within 19 minutes of the request for transport being made 95 per cent. of the time.

The published annual data for 2007-08 and 2008-09 show that:

> 10 out of 12 ambulance services achieved the category A eight minute response time standard in 2007-08, of these three services reported performance below the standard in 2008-09 (North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust and South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust).
>
> 10 out of 12 ambulance services achieved the category A 19 minute response time standard in 2007-08, all these 10 services achieved the standard in 2008-09.

From 1 April 2008, the way that national health service ambulance trusts measure response times has changed. This change is commonly referred to as 'call connect'. Response times are now measured from the point when the call is presented to the control room telephone switch. Previously, response times were measured from the point when certain details had been ascertained from the caller, an average of 90 seconds later. Therefore 2008-09 data involving the new 'call connect' response time measurement (i.e. eight and 19 minute response times) are not comparable with earlier years.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316463]

**Phil Hope:** The Department gives managing sickness absence the importance it deserves. Our policy "Managing Sickness Absence—promoting attendance at work" promotes a positive approach to managing and responding to sickness absence.

Human resources routinely make contact with line managers and members of staff at agreed absence trigger points, advising on the policy and support available to maximise attendance and support health and well-being at work. This can include occupational health referrals, return to work interviews, making use of the employee assistance programme, and consideration of reasonable adjustments to the role or physical environment.

Human resources provide continued support to managers and members of staff in maintaining acceptable attendance levels and advising on process for formal action where acceptable attendance levels cannot be sustained.

In December 2008, the Department published its policy on health and well-being for all its staff. One of the aims of the policy is to improve attendance at work.

A new more proactive new occupational health service is being tendered now which will also have an impact on attendance at work.

The information could be provided in the format requested only at disproportionate cost. However the Department can provide information for the last four years on the numbers of staff who have had five or more periods of sickness of less than five days in a year. This is given in the following table:

| | *Number of staff having five or more periods of sickness of less than five days* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 92 |
| 2007-08 | 95 |
| 2006-07 | 95 |
| 2005-06 | 87 |

Information is not available before 2005-06.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 910W, on departmental training, when the training was provided; whether external organisations provided the training; what the cost was of the training; and to which Ministers training was provided. [315782]

**Phil Hope:** Training is provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the ministerial code.

### Food: Labelling

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria have been agreed for evaluating the second phase of the pre-consultation pilot project of the healthier food mark. [315900]

**Gillian Merron:** The evaluation of the phase one pre-consultation healthier food mark pilots is in the process of being reviewed. Once this process has been completed, the revised nutrition and sustainability criteria will be published on the healthier food mark website:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthierfoodmark

prior to the launch of the phase two pilots.

### General Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in *(a)* each primary care trust area and *(b)* England who responded to his Department's general practice patient survey reported that contacting their GP out-of-hours service was (i) very easy, (ii) fairly easy, (iii) not very easy, (iv) not at all easy and (v) don't know in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [315894]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

The data comes with a heavy warning that the data from the two years are not directly comparable. This is because the survey in 2008-09 was a one-off survey covering the whole year whereas the 2009-10 survey is being conducted quarterly. So far we have data from just two quarters in 2009-10 and consequently the sample size is much smaller.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in *(a)* each primary care trust area and *(b)* England who responded to his Department's general practice patient survey reported that their GP out-of-hours service was (i) very good, (ii) good, (iii) neither good nor poor, (iv) poor, (v) very poor and (vi) don't know in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [315895]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This information requested has been placed in the Library.

The data provided comes with a clear warning that data from the two years are not directly comparable. This is because the survey in 2008-09 was a one-off survey covering the whole year whereas the 2009-10 survey is being conducted quarterly. So far we have data from just two quarters in 2009-10 and consequently the sample size is much smaller.

### Health Protection Agency: Location

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* staff and *(b)* trade unions on the proposed relocation of the Health Protection Agency from the Porton Down site near Salisbury to Harlow, Essex. [316047]

**Gillian Merron:** None. It is for the Health Protection Agency to hold such discussions with its staff and their representatives, and it will do so as appropriate.

### Health Services

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received medical attention in hospital as a result of attacks by dogs in each primary care trust in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* London in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316413]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Data relating to the number of finished admission episodes for patients bitten or struck by a dog, by primary care trust (PCT) in the East of England and London strategic health authority (SHA) of residence for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 has been set out in the following table.

*2006-07 to 2008-09*

| *SHA/PCT description* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *East of England SHA total* | 413 | 398 | 386 |
| Luton PCT | 6 | 8 | * |
| South East Essex PCT | 21 | 29 | * |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 31 | 21 | 13 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 51 | 33 | 50 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 37 | 44 | 37 |
| Peterborough PCT | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 42 | 43 | 61 |
| Norfolk PCT | 62 | 52 | 63 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 27 | 8 | 11 |
| Suffolk PCT | 23 | 30 | 36 |
| West Essex PCT | 19 | 17 | 18 |
| North East Essex PCT | 19 | 31 | 27 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 42 | 40 | 21 |
| South West Essex PCT | 24 | 31 | 23 |

*2006-07 to 2008-09*

| *SHA/PCT description* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *London SHA total* | 540 | 525 | 435 |
| Havering PCT | 17 | 12 | 22 |
| Kingston PCT | * | 10 | * |
| Bromley PCT | 8 | 14 | 19 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 20 | 18 | 22 |
| Barnet PCT | 14 | 16 | 9 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 19 | 18 | 20 |
| Enfield PCT | 21 | 18 | 17 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 12 | 14 | 11 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 11 | 14 | 10 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 17 | 17 | 16 |
| Newham PCT | 16 | 25 | 18 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 12 | 14 | 7 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 19 | 17 | 13 |
| Ealing PCT | 30 | 28 | 19 |
| Hounslow PCT | 19 | 18 | 11 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 11 | 11 | * |
| Harrow PCT | * | 6 | 6 |
| Camden PCT | 10 | 19 | 21 |
| Islington PCT | 21 | 11 | 10 |
| Croydon PCT | 23 | 18 | 25 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| Westminster PCT | 12 | 16 | 8 |
| Lambeth PCT | 31 | 28 | 28 |
| Southwark PCT | 35 | 24 | 15 |
| Lewisham PCT | 24 | 20 | 9 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 24 | 27 | 22 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 15 | 14 | 8 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 29 | 34 | 18 |
| Redbridge PCT | 17 | 6 | 7 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 13 | 9 | 8 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 6 | 14 | 16 |

Following reorganisation in 2006, SHAs were reduced from 28 to 10 and PCTs from 303 to 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years. Data has been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.

*2004-05 to 2005-06*

| *SHA/PCT description* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|
| *Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA total* | 140 | 122 |
| Norwich PCT | 13 | 6 |
| North Peterborough PCT | 6 | 5 |
| South Peterborough PCT | 6 | 9 |
| West Norfolk PCT | 6 | 9 |
| Southern Norfolk PCT | 20 | 11 |
| Huntingdonshire PCT | * | * |
| Great Yarmouth PCT | * | * |
| Cambridge City PCT | * | 7 |
| South Cambridgeshire PCT | 13 | 10 |
| East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | 11 | 10 |
| Broadland PCT | 8 | 6 |
| North Norfolk PCT | * | 8 |
| Ipswich PCT | 10 | * |
| Suffolk Coastal PCT | * | 9 |
| Central Suffolk PCT | 9 | * |
| Waveney PCT | 11 | * |
| Suffolk West PCT | 8 | 13 |
| | | |
| *Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA total* | 94 | 83 |
| Hertsmere PCT | 7 | * |
| Luton PCT | 12 | 8 |
| Bedford PCT | * | 7 |
| Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT | 17 | 18 |
| Welwyn Hatfield PCT | * | * |
| North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT | 19 | 11 |
| South East Hertfordshire PCT | * | 13 |
| Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT | * | 7 |
| Watford and Three Rivers PCT | 14 | * |
| Dacorum PCT | * | 6 |
| St. Albans and Harpenden PCT | 9 | * |
| | | |
| *Essex SHA Total* | 121 | 107 |
| Tendring PCT | 12 | 6 |
| Epping Forest PCT | 7 | 9 |
| Southend on Sea PCT | 12 | 16 |
| Harlow PCT | 7 | 7 |
| Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT | 8 | 6 |
| Colchester PCT | 15 | 10 |
| Uttlesford PCT | * | * |
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT | * | * |
| Thurrock PCT | * | 6 |
| Basildon PCT | 13 | 10 |
| Chelmsford PCT | 11 | 6 |
| Castle Point and Rochford PCT | 7 | 10 |
| Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust | 15 | 12 |
| | | |
| *North West London SHA total* | 72 | 83 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 19 | 26 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 6 | 11 |
| Ealing PCT | 6 | 12 |
| Hounslow PCT | 18 | 8 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 6 | * |
| Harrow PCT | * | 9 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 9 | 7 |
| Westminster PCT | * | * |
| | | |
| *North Central London SHA total* | 52 | 41 |
| Barnet PCT | 6 | 12 |
| Enfield PCT | 13 | 11 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 10 | * |
| Camden PCT | 15 | * |
| Islington PCT | 8 | 9 |
| | | |
| *North East London SHA total* | 76 | 78 |
| Havering PCT | * | 18 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 13 | 12 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 12 | 13 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 13 | 9 |
| Newham PCT | 13 | 8 |

*2004-05 to 2005-06*

| *SHA/PCT description* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|
| Redbridge PCT | 10 | 6 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | * | 12 |
| | | |
| *South East London SHA total* | 55 | 63 |
| Bromley PCT | 6 | * |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 9 | 16 |
| Lambeth PCT | 13 | 12 |
| Southwark PCT | 9 | * |
| Lewisham PCT | 6 | 11 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 12 | 11 |
| | | |
| *South West London SHA total* | 70 | 55 |
| Kingston PCT | 10 | * |
| Croydon PCT | 17 | * |
| Wandsworth PCT | 23 | 14 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 6 | 11 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 14 | 17 |

*Notes:*

1. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.
2. This data only covers patients admitted as an in-patient. Accident and emergency attendances are not included as it is not possible to identify from the data provided those bitten or struck by a dog.
3. The data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion during the year.
4. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
5. The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address has been used in the data to provide this answer. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA or PCT area for treatment.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics—The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

## Health Visitors: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since 1997. [315902]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not held in the format required. The NHS Information Centre collects workforce data for national health service organisations and not for geographical areas. The following table shows the number of health visitors in the Bexley care trust as at 30 September each year since 2001. Bexley primary care trust was formed in 2001 and became Bexley care trust in 2004. It is not possible to accurately map workforce figures for this organisation prior to 2001.

*National health service hospital and community health services: Health visitors in the Bexley primary care trust/Bexley care trust as at 30 September each year since 2001*

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 52 |
| 2002 | 50 |
| 2003 | 50 |
| 2004 | 50 |
| 2005 | 55 |
| 2006 | 53 |
| 2007 | 52 |
| 2008 | 59 |

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

## Health Visitors: East Sussex

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in the Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [315764]

**Ann Keen:** The information is shown in the following table:

*National health service hospital and community health services: Health visitors in the East Sussex Downs and Weald primary care trust (PCT), as at 30 September each year*[1]

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 91 |
| 2003 | 84 |
| 2004 | 75 |
| 2005 | 81 |
| 2006 | 42 |
| 2007 | 72 |
| 2008 | 70 |

*Notes:*

1. East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Eastbourne Downs PCT and Sussex Downs and Weald PCT. Figures for 2002-06 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
2. It is impossible to map PCT staff figures prior to the formation of the PCTs.
3. Data for 2009 will be released in March 2010.
4. It appears that figures supplied by Eastbourne Downs PCT failed to include around 30 health visitors for 2006.
5. *Data Quality* Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

## Health: Screening

**Mr. Barron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to monitor the *(a)* implementation of NHS health checks and *(b)* expenditure of funds allocated for that purpose. [315784]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Health Check programme is a Tier 3 Vital Sign in the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11. Consequently, strategic health authorities play a significant role in monitoring the roll-out of the programme locally. To support national understanding of the pace of implementation of the programme, data will be collected by the Department from 1 April 2010 on the number of people between the ages of 40 and 74 who have received an NHS Health Check. An NHS Health Check data set is also being developed which will enable the national health service to observe the progress of the programme in more detail.

Funding for the programme is not ring-fenced and is provided as part of general primary care trust (PCT) allocations. Data on spend by PCTs on implementing the programme are not collected centrally.

### Herbal Medicine: Regulation

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the statutory regulation of herbal practitioners. [316642]

**Ann Keen:** The Department's policy on statutory regulation of any new profession takes into account balancing public safety with the risk involved; and the Government's principles of Better Regulation—that it should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted only where action is needed.

The Department has recently consulted on whether, and if so how, to regulate practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine. The results of the consultation are currently being analysed and we expect a report to be submitted to Ministers in March 2010.

### Influenza: Telephone Services

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have had their symptoms assessed online by the National Pandemic Flu Service; and what proportion of such persons were allocated Tamiflu; [316009]

(2) what training is given to telephone operators at the National Pandemic Flu Service Hotline. [316011]

**Gillian Merron:** The National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) was launched on 23 July 2009.

The technology to distinguish assessments by telephone from those online did not become available until 16 August 2009, so we only have access to data setting out the number of online assessments from this date.

Cumulatively, from 16 August 2009 up to 2 February 2010, around 727,000 assessments were completed on-line using the NPFS and of these, around 476,000 were allocated (authorised) Tamiflu.

Experienced call operators are trained for a minimum of three hours. Less experienced call operators receive a days training. This training is designed and provided by NHS Direct or by accredited trainers of the call centre providers. This is in addition to any training that call centre providers routinely provide for their agents.

### Mesothelioma: South Yorkshire

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have been diagnosed with asbestos-related mesothelioma in each of the last 10 years. [314624]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster have been diagnosed with asbestos-related mesothelioma in each of the last 10 years. [314624]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of mesothelioma (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table attached provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of mesothelioma for (a) Barnsley metropolitan district and (b) Doncaster metropolitan district, for each year from 1998 to 2007.

According to the Health & Safety Executive, nearly all mesothelioma cases are caused by exposure to asbestos. However, each year a small number of cases occur in people with no history of exposure. There is evidence to suggest that these 'spontaneous mesotheliomas' comprise up to 5 per cent of total cases. Further information can be found at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/index.htm

It is not possible to exclude spontaneous mesotheliomas from the figures provided.

*Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of mesothelioma[1], persons, (a) Barnsley metropolitan district and (b) Doncaster metropolitan district[2], 1998 to 2007[3,4]*

| | | Persons |
|---|---|---|
| | Barnsley | Doncaster |
| 1998 | * | 7 |
| 1999 | * | 22 |
| 2000 | 3 | 15 |
| 2001 | 4 | 11 |
| 2002 | 6 | 19 |
| 2003 | 4 | 14 |
| 2004 | 5 | 12 |
| 2005 | 4 | 12 |
| 2006 | 5 | 16 |
| 2007 | 10 | 25 |

[1] Mesothelioma is coded as C45 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[4] Small numbers have been suppressed, so that potentially identifiable information is not revealed. Suppressed numbers are indicated by the symbol '*'

### Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether there has been any dismissals of clinical staff from Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, for negligence in the last five years; [315985]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of scheduled appointments in outpatient departments at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton which did not start on time in the last 12 months; [315991]

(3) how many deaths resulting from complications during surgery there have been at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last five years; [316023]

(4) how many cleaning staff are employed at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton; and what the average number of cleaning staff employed at NHS hospitals is; [316024]

(5) how many staff working at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton have responsibility for the enforcement of parking restrictions; and what the average number of such staff is at NHS hospitals; [316026]

(6) how many people have contracted Norovirus at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in the last 12 months. [316080]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is a matter for Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Rosalinde Wyke, Chair of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a restorative dentistry procedure is at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. [315988]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. Data do not exist specifically for restorative dentistry procedures as this term does not exist in the coding system used to record the operations, procedures and interventions carried out on patients. Reliable data at hospital level are not available. As such the following table shows the mean and median waiting time for first out-patient attendance for the restorative dentistry treatment speciality by Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, 2008-09.

| | *Number/days* |
|---|---|
| Count of first attendances (number) | 240 |
| Mean waiting time (days) | 59 |
| Median waiting time (days) | 51 |

*Notes:*

1. Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. Waiting times are usually only calculated for first attendances of patients referred by general practitioners and dentists. It is unclear whether the data collected have any relevance to subsequent attenders. Analysis of the data has revealed high (up to 100 per cent.) percentages of zero day waits for some providers suggesting poor data recording. For this reason '0' days waits have been excluded from the analysis.
2. First attendance: whether a patient is making a first attendance or a follow-up attendance and whether the consultation was face-to-face or via telephone/telemedicine consultation. The first attendance includes the first out-patient appointment and the first tele-consultation appointment.
3. Hospital provider: a provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (for example, national health service trust or primary care trust (PCT)). Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TCs). Normally, if data are tabulated by healthcare provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded treatment centres, these data are quoted separately. In these cases, '-X' is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the treatment centres. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of data flows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts may be lower than true figures.
4. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Source:*

HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for bariatric surgery is at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. [316020]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is not available.

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is for the Somerset Research and Development Support Unit, based at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for 2009-10. [316022]

**Gillian Merron:** The National Institute for Health Research, Research Design Service in the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) region has a budget of £1,042,282 in 2009-10. This new service started on 1 October 2008 and superseded the Somerset Research and Development Support Unit (RDSU) and other RDSUs in the South West SHA region.

## National Treatment Agency: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the reduction in the pooled treatment budget for Milton Keynes from the National Treatment Agency in 2010-11; and how much funding has been allocated to Milton Keynes from the National Treatment Agency over the next three years. [316096]

**Gillian Merron:** Until 2008-09 the Government's pooled treatment budget was allocated against a basket of indicators of social and economic deprivation known to reflect drug use as the best available proxy of treatment need. As a result of differences in performance between drug partnerships in getting people into treatment this funding formula was resulting in unjustifiable variations in the amount of the central contribution for each person's treatment.

2010-11 is the third year of this process which seeks to produce a fairer allocation system which more accurately matches need, activity and resources.

The new process is based on three elements:

> 25 per cent. of the allocation is based on the indicators underpinning the previous formula to reflect the differential cost of responding to different levels of complex need such as homelessness, mental health, family breakdown and unemployment;
>
> 75 per cent. is based on activity in the treatment system with areas being allocated a set amount per person treated effectively; and
>
> the final element is an area adjustment figure to reflect the varying costs of delivering services in different parts of the country.

To promote an orderly alteration to service planning, the change is being introduced over three years with the annual maximum reduction set of 5 per cent. in 2008-09, 15 per cent. in 2009-10 and 30 per cent. in 2010-11.

The illustrative amount for 2010-11 was £925,000 (published January 2008). However the actual allocation is dependent on the numbers in treatment relative to the total number in treatment across all areas. Milton Keynes allocation for 2010-11, will be notified shortly.

No decisions have yet been taken on funding for the next two years.

## NHS: Drugs

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medicines appraisals have been undertaken and published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence since 6 May 2005; how many such appraisals resulted in *(a)* recommendation, *(b)* partial recommendation and *(c)* medicine not being recommended; what (i) indication was appraised for each medicine and (ii) the estimated eligible patient population was for each such indication; and if he will make a statement. [315896]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information on the indication and recommendation for health technologies appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence since May 2005 has been placed in the Library.

Estimates of the annual eligible patient populations for each indication for each health technology are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of implementation of the National Prescribing Centre guidelines on processes for local decision-making about medicines; [316546]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on the prescribing of licensed oncology treatments where the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not yet made an appraisal decision. [316547]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Prescribing Centre's good practice guidance, "Supporting rational local decision-making about medicines (and treatments): A handbook of good practice guidance" available at:

www.npc.co.uk/policy/local/constitution_handbook.htm

was reinforced by Directions which came into force on 1 April 2009. We have not made an assessment of primary care trust arrangements under the Directions.

The "Handbook" gives guidance to primary care trusts on how to make decisions about drugs or treatments, in the absence of guidance from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). We have made it clear that the absence of NICE guidance is not in itself a reason to refuse funding for a treatment.

## Nurses: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Milton Keynes employ a school nurse. [316036]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not held in the format requested. Information is available for the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work directly employed by national health service organisations. The following table shows the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in Milton Keynes primary care trust (PCT).

*NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work as at 30 September 2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Milton Keynes PC | 2 |

*Notes:*

1. Qualified school nurses have a sp[illegible]alification in school nursing.

2. The NHS Hospital and Community Health Services non-medical workforce census is a large statistical exercise collecting over one million records from over 400 organisation. It is not, and is not intended to be, carried out to exact accounting standards.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified nurses were employed in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [316042]

**Ann Keen:** The information is shown in the following table.

*National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in Milton Keynes*

| *Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT)* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All qualified nurses (including practice nurses) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 446 | 471 | 465 | 496 | 535 | 516 | 545 | 506 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 377 | 383 | 380 | 409 | 448 | 421 | 450 | 451 |
| General Practitioner (GP) Practice nurses | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 69 | 88 | 85 | 87 | 87 | 95 | 95 | 55 |
| *Milton Keynes Community Health NHS Trust* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting | 357 | 374 | 385 | 365 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting | 573 | 606 | 671 | 804 | 818 | 829 | 824 | 1,009 | 875 | 908 | 765 | 832 |

n/a = not applicable

*Notes*

1. Data as at 30 September each year for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff.

2. Data for 2009 will be released in March 2010 on publication of the NHS Workforce Census (for data as at 30 September 2009).

3. GP Practice Nurse data as at 1 October 1997-1999 and 30 September 2000-2008.

4 Data is shown here by organisations in operation at the time. Prior to 2001 Milton Keynes PCT did not exist.

5. GP Practice Nurse Data prior to 2001 is not available in the Milton Keynes area due to the regional division of predecessor organisations

6. Data Quality:

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

## Nurses: Schools

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Essex employ a school nurse. [315745]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on school nurses is not available separately.

The following table provides individual local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Essex who employ full-time equivalent matrons, nurses and medical staff, January 2009.

*Full-time equivalent (FTE) matrons, nurses and medical staff in service in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Year: January 2009. Coverage: Essex local authority*

| *School name* | *School type* | *FTE of matrons, nurses and medical staff* |
|---|---|---|
| Alton Park Junior School | Community | 0.8 |
| Leigh Beck Infant School and Nursery | Community | 1.9 |
| Spinney Infant School | Community | 1.0 |
| Limes Farm Infant School and Nursery | Community | 1.0 |
| Riverside Infant School | Community | 1.9 |
| Elmwood Primary School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| Great Totham Primary School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| Katherines Primary School | Foundation | 0.9 |
| Rolph C of E Primary School | Voluntary aided | 0.9 |
| Coppins Green Primary School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| Holland Park Primary School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| Hockley Primary School | Foundation | 0.4 |
| The Cathedral Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Chelmsford | Voluntary aided | 0.1 |
| Moulsham High School and Humanities College | Community | 0.9 |
| Chalvedon School | Foundation | 1.0 |
| The King John School | Foundation | 1.2 |
| Saffron Walden County High School | Foundation | 0.9 |
| King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford | Foundation | 0.6 |
| The Boswells School | Foundation | 0.9 |
| The Appleton School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| The Fitzwimarc School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| The Deanes School | Foundation | 1.0 |
| Davenant Foundation School | Voluntary aided | 1.0 |
| William De Ferrers School | Foundation | 0.9 |
| Tendring Technology College | Foundation | 1.8 |
| Anglo European School | Foundation | 1.7 |
| Clacton County High School | Foundation | 0.8 |
| Colbayns High School | Foundation | 1.9 |
| Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form Centre | Foundation | 1.0 |
| Alderman Blaxill School | Foundation | 0.5 |
| St Benedict's Catholic College | Voluntary aided | 0.9 |
| The Billericay School | Foundation | 1.4 |
| Manningtree High School | Foundation | 0.5 |

*Source:*
School Census

## Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were recorded as having *(a)* an admission and *(b)* a discharge episode with a diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies (A) in England and (B) per 100,000 admissions to each NHS trust in each year between 1997-98 and 2008-09. [314564]

**Gillian Merron:** This information has been placed in the Library.

## Osteoporosis: Health Services

**John Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance to primary care trusts implementing local enhanced services on incentives for primary care health professionals to identify and treat men and women over the age of 50 with *(a)* osteoporosis and *(b)* a history of fragility fractures. [316346]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We do not issue guidance on local enhanced services which are determined by primary care trusts to meet local needs and priorities. A national Directed Enhanced Service provides incentives for general practitioner practices to diagnose and treat women aged 65 and over who have sustained a fragility fracture on the basis that this group of patients is at greatest risk of osteoporosis. This Directed Enhanced Service, which was due to end on 31 March 2010, will continue into 2010-11 and updated guidance to support this will shortly be issued by NHS Employers.

## Primary Care Trusts

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice and guidance his Department has given to primary care trusts on their future role as healthcare providers. [316225]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** "NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care", (Department of Health July 2008) made a commitment to support the national health service in making local decisions on the governance and organisational models that best underpin the development of flexible, responsive community services. "Enabling New Patterns of Provision" (Department of Health, January 2009) set out best practice guidance for primary care trusts (PCTs) to support them to make decisions on the most appropriate organisational form or forms for delivery of their directly provided community services.

The "NHS Operating Framework 2010-11" (Department of Health, 16 December 2009) sets out that by March 2010 PCTs must have agreed with strategic health authorities proposals for the future organisational structure of all current PCT-provided community services. To support

PCTs to meet this requirement, the Department has recently published further guidance confirming the range of options available and the approval, assurance and engagement processes.

"NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care, Enabling New Patterns of Provision the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11" and "Transforming Community Services: The assurance and approvals process for PCT-provided community services" have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

### Rickets

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to address trends in the incidence of cases of rickets, with particular reference to cases in children. [316538]

**Gillian Merron:** As a precautionary measure, the Department continues to raise awareness and recommends vitamin D supplementation for those at risk of vitamin D deficiency, which may develop into rickets. Those at risk include all pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children up to the age of five years. Although sporadic incidence of rickets are reported at present, the concern is more about the high proportion of people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

The recommendations are also available to health professionals, through mainstream communications including Healthy Start. The importance of Healthy Start vitamin supplements for women and children is reinforced by the Department, and work with the national health service and devolved administrations is ongoing to improve their uptake. For beneficiaries of the Healthy Start scheme, free vitamins for pregnant women and children (both containing vitamin D) are available free from the NHS without prescription.

### Sandwell

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the borough of Sandwell, the effects on that borough of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [316472]

**Gillian Merron:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the borough of Sandwell.

For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Sandwell Primary Care Trust (PCT):

93 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, 99 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008 the number of consultants at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has increased from 199 to 236. Between September 2002 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 2,072 to 2,127.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Sandwell PCT has increased from 57.3 to 61.9.

93.4 per cent. of urgent general GP referrals to Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Sandwell PCT opened its GP-led health centre on 1 June 2009 in West Bromwich. The Malling Health Centre offers longer opening hours, meaning that any member of the public will be able to see a GP or nurse between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

There is one private finance initiative (PFI) scheme in the area that serves this constituency. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust's £26 million Ambulatory Care Centre PFI scheme opened in November 2005.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Sandwell will have also benefitted from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—("Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities")—launched in 2008,

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009.

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health"—launched in December 2009—to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

### Sexual Offences: Young People

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's strategy for young people who sexually abuse; and if he will make a statement. [316445]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has consulted stakeholders on the development of a framework for service development for young people who display sexually harmful behaviour. We recognise the need to involve other Government Departments in this work and are working closely with the key relevant Departments, with the aim of publishing the document by summer 2010.

### Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the devolved administrations on the effects of the new care and support system in the Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper on *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance. [316223]

**Phil Hope:** In the course of his ministerial duties, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and Ministers in the devolved Administrations about a variety of matters, including the development of the new care and support system.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Finance

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much assistance in *(a)* funds for recapitalisation and *(b)* exposure to potential financial liability his Department provided to banks in the (i) first and (ii) second half of (A) 2007, (B) 2008 and (C) 2009; and how much such assistance of each type it had provided to banks on the latest date for which figures are available. [315954]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1924W. In Annex B of PBR 2009, the Government set out updated estimates of the net fiscal cost of financial sector interventions.

### Child Benefit: Northern Ireland

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child benefit overpayments in Northern Ireland have been made consequent on the failure of claimants to notify the Tax Credit Office of a change of circumstances in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what the monetary value was of such overpayments in each such year. [316278]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer to the answer given on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 763W to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West (John Battle).

### Climate Change Levy

**Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed change to the Climate Change Levy discount arrangement on *(a)* private sector investment in environmental technology and *(b)* the number of manufacturing jobs. [315892]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The decision to reduce the Climate Change Levy discount available to Climate Change Agreement (CCA) participants was driven by the need to comply with European Union law and was informed by extensive macroeconomic and sectoral analysis to assess the consequences of the change.

As a result of the change, industrial energy taxation in the UK will remain among the lowest in the European Union, while average operating costs across all CCA sectors will increase by only 0.03 per cent.

**Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the decision to change the Climate Change Levy discount arrangement threshold from 80 to 65 per cent. [315893]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

### Departmental Disclosure of Information

**David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313230]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Government Departments and agencies and non-departmental public bodies that have Crown status, make most of their information available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence. Government trading funds, such as Buying Solutions are able to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This covers information and its supply provided to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals. Neither HM Treasury nor any of its agencies sells information.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316454]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Twelve.

### Financial Institutions: Shareholders

**Mr. Cash:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that all *(a)* savers, *(b)* borrowers and *(c)* shareholders in UK banks and building societies have the same voting rights as those proposed in the mutual society to be formed from the Chelsea Building Society and the Yorkshire Building Society. [313449]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Building societies are owned by their customers, who have rights to vote on mergers under the Building Societies Act 1986. Banks, in contrast, are not owned by their customers, and the rights of shareholders to vote on mergers are determined in accordance with the articles of association of the banks concerned and company law.

### Financial Services: EU Action

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the benefits for the UK financial services sector of proposals for EU regulation of that sector. [315927]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**John Mason:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homeowners are in receipt of assistance from the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme in Glasgow East constituency. [316755]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme was launched in April 2009. Management information on the scheme and equivalent forbearance schemes was released by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 9 December 2009. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1408110

Data are not collected at constituency level.

### PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures exist for a Pay-As-You-Earn taxpayer to obtain information from his Department on their annual tax calculation. [315983]

**Mr. Timms:** Pay As You Earn (PAYE) aims to collect the right amount of tax each year through the PAYE code. Customers are encouraged to use the information provided on HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/income/tax-codes.htm

to help them understand their PAYE tax code. If customers have concerns or believe they are being wrongly taxed, they should contact their tax office, which will be able to make any appropriate adjustments.

Information on how to find your tax office is available at:

http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/locator/locator.jsp?type=1.

### Public Sector Pay

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Prime Minister's speech of 7 December 2009 on Smarter Government, whether the policy of requiring the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to approve public sector salaries over £150,000 and bonus payments of over £50,000 will apply to *(a)* non-ministerial departments, *(b)* public corporations, *(c)* non-departmental public bodies and *(d)* Network Rail; whether it will apply to civil servants already in post; and whether it will apply to appointments which are not subject to Ministerial approval. [315250]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1067W.

### Revenue and Customs

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long HM Revenue and Customs retains copies of tax returns. [316409]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 744W.

### Revenue and Customs: Rural Areas

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to ensure that its services are available in person to people living in rural areas. [315905]

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs took of the disability equality duty of public authorities under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in its programme of closures of public enquiry centres. [315975]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 855W. An equality impact assessment of changes to enquiry centre opening hours will be published prior to any changes being made.

### Strategic Investment Fund

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of providing the additional funds to the Strategic Investment Fund announced in the 2009 Pre-Budget Report; and how much funding has been allocated to the Strategic Investment Fund since its inception. [316018]

**Mr. Timms:** The cost to the public purse of the £200 million uplift to the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) announced in the 2009 Pre-Budget Report was £100 million, consisting of:

£100 million of new funding provided to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for the SIF; and

£100 million was allocated to the SIF from departmental re-prioritization.

£950 million has been allocated to the SIF since its inception.

### Taxation: Gaming Machines

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the responses received to his Department's consultation on the taxation of gaming machines. [316169]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury's formal consultation on the taxation of gaming machines concluded on 23 October 2009.

In line with the Government's code of practice on consultation, the responses are being analysed carefully and, in due course, a summary of responses will be published.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of in-work *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* couple parents claiming working tax credit with (i) one child, (ii) two children and (iii) three children have gross annual incomes for the purpose of calculating their awards of (A) less than £10,000, (B) between £10,000 and £20,000, (C) between £20,000 and £30,000, (D) between £30,000 and £40,000, (E) between £40,000 and £50,000 and (F) over £50,000; and if he will make a statement. [315976]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is provided in the following tables.

*Number of in-work families benefiting from tax credits, December 2009 (thousands)*

*Thousand*

| | Range of income used to taper award | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *In-work families* | *Up to £9,999* | *£10,000 to £19,999* | *£20,000 to £29,999* | *£30,000 to £39,999* | *£40,000 to £50,000* | *Over £50,000* |
| *Single parent:* | | | | | | |
| One child | 355.2 | 222.8 | 87.7 | 29.2 | 6.8 | 1.5 |
| Two children | 214.5 | 103.9 | 35.1 | 13.9 | 3.3 | 0.7 |
| Three or more children | 76.4 | 23.6 | 7.5 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| *Couple:* | | | | | | |
| One child | 119.3 | 213.4 | 328.7 | 359.7 | 186.0 | 63.7 |
| Two children | 132.0 | 216.1 | 260.0 | 377.8 | 187.7 | 69.1 |
| Three or more children | 120.2 | 119.9 | 101.0 | 86.2 | 55.6 | 18.4 |
| Total | 1,017.8 | 899.8 | 820.0 | 869.1 | 440.1 | 153.5 |

*Proportion of in-work families benefiting from tax credits, December 2009*

*Percentage*

| | Range of income used to taper award | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *In-work families* | *Up to £9,999* | *£10,000 to £19,999* | *£20,000 to £29,999* | *£30,000 to £39,999* | *£40,000 to £50,000* | *Over £50,000* |
| *Single parent:* | | | | | | |
| One child | 51 | 32 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Two children | 58 | 28 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Three or more children | 69 | 21 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| *Couple:* | | | | | | |
| One child | 9 | 17 | 26 | 28 | 15 | 5 |
| Two children | 11 | 17 | 21 | 30 | 15 | 6 |
| Three or more children | 24 | 24 | 20 | 17 | 11 | 4 |

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of *(a)* working tax credit, *(b)* child tax credit and *(c)* total tax credit expenditure is paid to families with annual incomes of less than (i) £20,000, (ii) £30,000; (iii) £40,000 and (iv) £50,000; and if he will make a statement. [315977]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is provided in the following tables:

*Amount and proportion of working tax credit[1] (WTC) entitlement by income, 2007-08*

| *Income used to calculate award* | *WTC entitlement (£ million)* | *Proportion of WTC entitlement (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Up to £19,999 | 5,783 | 98 |
| £20,000 to £29,999 | 117 | 2 |
| £30,000 to £39,999 | 14 | 0 |
| £40,000 to £49,999 | 1 | 0 |
| £50,000 or more | 0 | 0 |

*Amount and proportion of working tax credit[1] (WTC) entitlement by income, 2007-08*

| Income used to calculate award | WTC entitlement (£ million) | Proportion of WTC entitlement (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 5,915 | 100 |

[1] This includes any entitlement to the child care element.

*Amount and proportion of child tax credit (CTC) entitlement by income, 2007-08*

| Income used to calculate award | CTC entitlement (£ million) | Proportion of WTC entitlement (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| Up to £19,999 | 13,311 | 85 |
| £20,000 to £29,999 | 1,446 | 9 |
| £30,000 to £39,999 | 620 | 4 |
| £40,000 to £49,999 | 256 | 2 |
| £50,000 or more | 47 | 0 |
| Total | 15,679 | 100 |

*Amount and proportion of all tax credit entitlement by income: 2007-08*

| Income used to calculate award | Total tax credit entitlement (£ million) | Proportion of total entitlement (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| Up to £19,999 | 19,095 | 88 |
| £20,000 to £29,999 | 1,563 | 7 |
| £30,000 to 39,999 | 633 | 3 |
| £40,000 to £49,999 | 257 | 1 |
| £50,000 or more | 47 | 0 |
| Total | 21,599 | 100 |

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of out of work *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* couple parents are receiving child tax credit equivalent to the family element or less. [315978]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs estimate that at 1 December 2009 there were:

1083,900 out of work lone parents receiving child tax credit, of which 3,300 (0.3 per cent.) were receiving the family element or less; and

378,800 out of work couple parents receiving child tax credit, of which 17,200 (4.5 [per cent.) were receiving the family element or less.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of couples with children receiving *(a)* child tax credit only and *(b)* both working tax credit and child tax credit have more than one adult in full-time work. [315980]

**Mr. Timms:** At December 2009 there were 580,000 couples with children who both worked full-time and were receiving child tax credit only. This is approximately 14 per cent. of all in-work couples receiving child tax credit only.

There were also 75,000 couples with children who both worked full-time and were receiving working tax credit and child tax credit. This is approximately 4 per cent. of all couples receiving both child tax credit and working tax credit.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median gross income is of (i) in work and (ii) out of work (A) lone parents and (B) couple parents claiming tax credits with (1) one, (2) two, (3) three, (4) four, (5) five and (6) six or more children in the family; and if he will make a statement. [315981]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

*Mean and median income used to calculate awards at December 2009*

£

| | Income used to calculate award[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Out of work[2] | | In work[2] | |
| | Mean | Median | Mean | Median |
| *Single parent* | | | | |
| One child | 2,130 | 0 | 12,200 | 9,870 |
| Two children | 1,710 | 0 | 11,050 | 8,500 |
| Three children | 1,320 | 0 | 9,390 | 7,000 |
| Four children | 1,050 | 0 | 8,030 | 5,830 |
| Five children | 930 | 0 | 7,160 | 5,010 |
| Six or more children | 690 | 0 | 6,340 | 4,410 |
| *Couple* | | | | |
| One child | 7,730 | 4,500 | 28,680 | 29,340 |
| Two children | 7,740 | 4,410 | 28,700 | 30,190 |
| Three children | 5,990 | 3,290 | 24,360 | 23,070 |
| Four children | 4,620 | 2,570 | 19,400 | 16,270 |
| Five children | 3,920 | 2,150 | 15,570 | 11,900 |
| Six or more children | 3,090 | 200 | 12,840 | 8,110 |

[1] This is the gross family income which is used for the purpose of calculating the tax credit award in 2009-10.

[2] Out of work families are those where claimants are not working, or working less than 16 hours per week. In-work families contain at least one claimant working 16 or more hours per week.

## Welfare Tax Credits: Northern Ireland

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of tax credit claimants in Northern Ireland who do not renew their claims. [316277]

**Mr. Timms:** In 2007-08 approximately 4,500 awards in Northern Ireland were terminated due to non-renewal.

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests were received for emergency payments of tax credits in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [316347]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs does not record the reason for issuing a manual payment of tax credits at a local enquiry centre.

## JUSTICE

### Re-registration: Overseas Voters

16. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of ending the requirement on overseas voters to re-register every year. [316147]

**Mr. Wills:** Overseas voters (except service voters) are subject to the same requirements as those in the UK in that they are required each year to confirm where they are resident and ensure that relevant election documents are despatched to the correct address whenever an election is held. Changing that requirement could damage the integrity of the electoral register.

### Drug Use: Prisons

17. **Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Blakey review on disrupting the supply of illegal drugs in prisons. [316148]

**Maria Eagle:** We have made good progress in implementing David Blakey's recommendations, including:

providing all prisons with a Body Orifice Security Scanner (BOSS chair) and hand held metal detectors;

having a senior manager responsible for co-ordinating delivery of the local drug strategy at every prison;

publishing a revised good practice guide to assist prisons in tackling drug supply routes;

progressed work on blocking mobile phones in prisons, albeit that this has proved a very complex area;

strengthening our relationship with Home Office Scientific Development Branch; and

working more closely with law enforcement agencies.

### Burglary Sentences

18. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on sentencing guidelines in respect of burglary offences. [316149]

**Claire Ward:** Sentencing guidelines are published by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council, not by the Government. In December 2008, the Sentencing Guidelines Council published a definitive guideline on theft and burglary in a building other than a dwelling. It is anticipated that the Sentencing Advisory Panel will produce its advice on sentencing for burglary in a home in spring this year.

### Legal Aid: Asylum Seekers

19. **Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will extend eligibility for legal aid to asylum seekers seeking to appeal against the withdrawal of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and section 21 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 2006. [316150]

**Bridget Prentice:** Legal aid is available for eligible people to obtain help and advice in respect of such an appeal. The Government do not believe it is necessary to extend public funding to representation. Doing so would be disproportionate to the complexity of the issues and evidence under consideration.

### Prison Transfer Agreements

20. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the prisoner transfer agreements with Jamaica, Nigeria and Rwanda to be completed and ratified. [316151]

**Maria Eagle:** Prisoner transfer agreements with Jamaica and Rwanda have been agreed. The Agreement with Jamaica was signed in 2007. The Agreement with Rwanda will be signed shortly. Both Agreements are subject to ratification procedures before they can be brought into force. In the case of Jamaica changes to legislation are also necessary. It is not possible to say when either country will complete their procedures.

Negotiation of a compulsory prisoner transfer agreement with Nigeria cannot be completed until Nigerian prisoner transfer legislation is amended. A Bill for this purpose is currently before the Nigerian National Assembly. I cannot therefore say when negotiations will be completed.

### Solicitors: Payments

21. **Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Legal Services Commission on their payments to solicitors in 2008-09. [316152]

**Bridget Prentice:** Meetings are held regularly with the Legal Services Commission at which a wide range of issues are discussed. One of the key current items on the agenda is the PAC report, which we welcome.

### Custodial Sentences: Single Parents

22. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent consideration he has given to the effect on dependent children of custodial sentences for single parents. [316153]

**Claire Ward:** We are working very closely with the Department of Children, Schools and Families to meet the needs of this vulnerable group of children. We have published a cross government Framework which aims to improve multi agency support and have a significant programme of work in hand to explore how agencies can work together to identify, assess and support the needs of children of offenders.

### Information Commissioner's Office: Finance

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of funding of the Information Commissioner's Office. [316165]

**Mr. Wills:** The Information Commissioner's Office is funded by a combination of grant in aid from the Ministry of Justice to pay for the Office's freedom of information work and notification fees paid directly to the Office by data controllers (and retained by the Office with HM Treasury's consent) to fund its data protection work.

The Ministry of Justice and the Information Commissioner's Office regularly review funding arrangements. The Government introduced tiered notification fees in October 2009 to increase funding to pay for the Commissioner's proposed new statutory data protection responsibilities. The Ministry of Justice has given the Information Commissioner's Office additional grant in aid for its freedom of information responsibilities over and above its original baseline for this financial year and the previous four.

The level of grant in aid funding for freedom of information in the next financial year is currently under discussion.

### Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [314236]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Chorley, they are available for Lancashire. They shows a decrease in the total number of offenders sentenced annually from 49,243 in 1997 to 44,666 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

The number of offences brought to justice for the Lancashire area increased from 29,336 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 42,707 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Chorley. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Lancashire was 70,784 in 1997 compared to 55,827 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three-month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Lancashire was 11.96 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a rise in reoffending of 6.90 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in Lancashire was 4,022 in 1997 and 6,866 in 2008.

29,678 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of Cumbria and Lancashire HMCS area in 2008, compared to 42,686 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. There were also 3,679 private law applications and 262 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 2,817 and 211 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

## Convictions

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of *(a)* domestic burglary and *(b)* drug offences in (i) the London borough of Bexley and (ii) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since 2005. [315903]

**Claire Ward:** The number persons convicted of domestic burglary and drug offences in Greater London in each year between 2005 and 2008 is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available below Criminal Justice System area level. Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn 2010.

*The number of persons found guilty of burglary offences and drug offences in the Greater London police force area, 2005-08*[1], [2]

| Offence | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Persons<br>2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Domestic burglary | 1,735 | 1,686 | 1,843 | 1,822 |
| Drugs related | 8,169 | 8,968 | 10,161 | 12,345 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref. PQ 315903

## Crimes of Violence: Cautions

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of offences of violence in the last three years had been issued with at least one caution. [316490]

**Claire Ward:** Figures for offenders sentenced for violence against the person who had previously been issued with a caution for any offence are shown in the following table.

These figures represent a further breakdown of the statistics in Table 6.5 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Figures are for both adults and juveniles

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

*Sentences given for an offence of violence against the person*[1]*, and number of sentences when the offender had previously received a caution, 2006-08, England and Wales*

| | | With at least one caution previously[2] | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of sentences for an offence of violence against the person | Number of sentencing occasions | Percentage of total |
| 2006 | 48,837 | 27,454 | 56.2 |
| 2007 | 49,329 | 29,929 | 60.7 |
| 2008 | 49,754 | 30,757 | 61.8 |

[1] The figures are a count of primary offences only. Offenders sentenced on more than one occasion during this period will be represented in table on each occasion.
[2] At the time of sentence the offender has at least one record on the police national computer of a reprimand, warning or caution for an offence of any kind.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313851]

**Mr. Wills:** Information on the destination of staff who leave the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is not recorded centrally as there is no requirement to collect this information. To obtain this information we would need to contact all relevant staff to find out where they are now working, this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Driving Offences

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in the Sussex police force area and England were disqualified from driving as a result of *(a)* drink driving, *(b)* speeding and *(c)* dangerous or careless driving in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [316058]

**Claire Ward:** The number persons disqualified from driving as a result of convictions for *(a)* drink driving, *(b)* speeding and *(c)* dangerous or careless driving in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008 at all courts in the Sussex police force area and in England for 1997 and 2008 are shown in the following tables 1 and 2.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn of 2010.

*Table 1. Number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in Sussex for selected motoring offences, from 1997 and 2008*[1, 2, 3]

| | Number of offences | |
|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1997* | *2008* |
| Dangerous driving | 68 | 66 |
| Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 2,254 | 2,121 |
| Careless driving | 48 | 52 |
| Speed limit offences | 261 | 125 |
| Total | 2,631 | 2,364 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Previously issued data have been revised.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Number of disqualifications imposed at all courts in England, for selected motoring offences, from 1998 to 2007*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| | Number of offences | |
|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1997* | *2008* |
| Dangerous driving | 4,803 | 4,150 |
| Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs | 87,153 | 70,179 |
| Careless driving | 1,435 | 1,770 |
| Speed limit offences | 9,427 | 6,502 |
| Total | 102,818 | 82,601 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures given include revised figures for Sussex police force area.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Driving Offences: West Yorkshire

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in the West Yorkshire police force area in 2008. [315538]

**Claire Ward:** During 2008, a total of 13 people were convicted of causing death by dangerous driving at all courts in the West Yorkshire police force area.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

### Land Registry: Gloucester

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the effects of the Land Registry's accelerated transformation programme on its Gloucester office. [315880]

**Mr. Wills:** Land Registry published their Accelerated Transformation Proposals on 22 October 2009. Under the current proposals, Land Registry would retain an office in Gloucester.

A public consultation on the proposals ended on 29 January. Land Registry have received letters from local MPs and constituents in Gloucester and the surrounding area regarding these proposals. All contributions are now being considered and Land Registry currently plans to announce final decisions and publish a full responses document in March.

### Legal Aid

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet the Chief Executive of the Legal Services Commission to discuss the Commission's work in procurement of legal aid in England and Wales. [316140]

**Bridget Prentice:** Meetings are held regularly with the Legal Services Commission at which a wide range of issues are discussed. One of the key current items on the agenda is the PAC report, which we welcome.

### Members: Correspondence

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the Office of the Judicial Ombudsman with his comments on the representations made to that office by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley on 8 December 2009. [315963]

**Mr. Straw:** The Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman determined a complaint dated 2 April 2009 from the hon. Member. In compliance with statute, he sent his draft report about that complaint to me and to the Lord Chief Justice on 8 December 2009. Officials commented on my behalf on 26 January 2010 and the final report was issued, by the ombudsman, on 28 January 2010.

### Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to North East Milton Keynes constituency, the effects on Milton Keynes of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316039]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around 9 million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of North-East Milton Keynes, they are available for the Thames Valley. They show the total number of offenders sentenced annually was 38,701 in 1997 and 38,306 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

The number of offences brought to justice for the Thames Valley area increased from 29,877 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data has been compiled) to 48,465 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data is not available for the constituency of North-East Milton Keynes. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Thames Valley was 53,716 in 1997 compared to 47,425 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation case load in Milton Keynes was 9.48 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation case load, there was an increase in reoffending of 2.99 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the probation service in the Thames Valley was 3,716 in 1997and 5,256 in 2008.

44,212 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of Thames Valley HMCS area in 2008, compared to 67,187 respectively in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. There were also 3,573 private law applications and 218 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 3,422 and 282 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

### Operation Black Vote

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent meetings he has had with representatives of Operation Black Vote. [315925]

**Bridget Prentice:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor last met with members of Operation Black Vote on 2 June 2008 when he gave a speech at the Operation Black Vote Magistrates' Shadowing Scheme Graduation. In addition, I spoke at an Operation Black Vote organised event on 20 January 2010 to celebrate the appointment of the 50th graduate of the Magistrates' Shadowing Scheme to be appointed to the magistracy.

### Prison Sentences

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people received an indeterminate sentence for public protection with a tariff of 23 months or less under the new exceptional circumstances legislation *(a)* between 14 July and 31 December 2008 and *(b)* in 2009; [316648]

(2) how many prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection are two years or more past the expiry of their tariff date; [316649]

(3) how many prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection had a tariff of 23 months or less before July 2008 and are now in an open prison; [316650]

(4) how many prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection are in an open prison; [316651]

(5) how many people received an indeterminate sentence for public protection with a tariff of two years in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* the period 1 July to 14 January 2008, *(e)* the period 14 July to 31 December 2008 and *(f)* 2009. [316652]

**Maria Eagle:** Table 1 as follows shows the number of offenders who have received an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP), if they are over 18 years of age, or a detention for public protection (DPP), if they are under 18 years of age, with a tariff of two years or less, as calculated from date of sentence to the date of tariff expiry, for the period up to 31 December 2009.

The following table is broken down by year, except for 2008 which is further broken down up to and at 14 July 2008 and after 14 July 2008. The figures shown are as notified to the National Offender Management Service at 5 February 2010.

*Table 1*

| *Year of sentence* | *Number sentenced (with a tariff of 2 years or less* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 215 |
| 2006 | 550 |
| 2007 | 563 |
| 1 January 2008-14 July 2008 | 290 |
| 15 July 2010-31 December 2008 | 78 |
| 2009 | 158 |
| Total | 1854 |

These figures include those sentenced to an IPP who subsequently had their sentence quashed or died. These figures are drawn from a total of 6047 cases recorded over this period. A further 17 cases over this period are still awaiting the courts setting a tariff.

From 14 July 2008 the provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 took effect, in that an IPP may not be passed where the minimum tariff is less than two years, except where offenders have been convicted of very serious crimes in the past, as specified in Schedule 15A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

As at 5 February 2010, the number of prisoners in custody, serving an IPP or a DPP, and who are recorded by the National Offender Management Service as being two years or more past the expiry of their tariff was 476. This figure includes IPP prisoners who have been released and subsequently recalled.

As at 5 February 2010, there were 197 prisoners serving either an IPP or DPP and who are in open conditions.

Of these, 118 have a tariff of two years or less, as calculated from date of sentence to the date of tariff expiry.

These figures include those prisoners being held within the juvenile and female estates.

The figures to answer each question were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

## Pyramid Selling

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for breaches of the prohibition on chain gifting under section 43 of the Gambling Act 2005 there have been since the entry into force of that provision. [315715]

**Claire Ward:** Section 43 of the Gambling Act (chain gifting) came into force on 1 September 2007. Up to 31 December 2008 (latest currently available) no prosecutions for offences under this section of the Gambling Act have been reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

## Robbery: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group in Milton Keynes were convicted of robbery in each year since 1997. [315370]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of persons found guilty of robbery in the Thames Valley Criminal Justice System area, broken down by age group, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Court proceedings data are not available below Criminal Justice System area level. Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn 2010.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for robbery offences in the Thames Valley Criminal Justice System area, by age group, from 1997 to 2008*[1, 2]

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of offence* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Robbery offences* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Persons* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 to 11 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | | |
| 12 to 14 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 19 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 14 |
| 15 to 17 | 51 | 28 | 27 | 40 | 43 | 72 | 49 | 50 | 46 | 64 | 59 | 80 |
| 18 to 20 | 49 | 52 | 34 | 30 | 48 | 65 | 51 | 48 | 65 | 47 | 67 | 52 |
| 21 and over | 52 | 34 | 36 | 57 | 84 | 114 | 99 | 89 | 78 | 70 | 74 | 96 |
| Total | 158 | 121 | 106 | 138 | 187 | 273 | 212 | 195 | 203 | 189 | 214 | 242 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of his Department since it was established. [315634]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

> Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of South Thanet, they are available for Kent. They show an increase in the total number of offenders sentenced annually from 26,321 in 1997 to 34,385 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.
>
> The number of offences brought to justice for the Kent area increased from 26,685 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2001 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 40,846 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of South Thanet. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Kent increased from 32,160 in 1997 to 41,425 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three-month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in the Kent county council area was 8.79 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was an increase in reoffending of 9 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in Kent was 3,324 in 1997and 4,633 in 2008.

33,059 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of Kent HMCS area in 2008, compared to 42,319 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. There were also 3,082 private law applications and 105 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 2,635 and 238 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

## Theft: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in Milton Keynes were convicted of an offence of *(a)* handling stolen goods and *(b)* fraud and forgery in each year since 1997. [315371]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of persons found guilty of *(a)* handling stolen goods and *(b)* fraud and forgery in each year between 1997 and 2008 (latest available) in the Thames Valley Criminal Justice System area, broken down by age group, from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following tables.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts in the Thames Valley Criminal Justice System area for offences of handling stolen goods and fraud and forgery, by age group, from 1997 to 2008*[1], [2]

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of offence:* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Handling stolen goods* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Persons | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 to 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 12 to 14 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 17 | 10 | 17 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 15 to 17 | 43 | 60 | 76 | 65 | 71 | 72 | 44 | 39 | 49 | 35 | 35 | 33 |
| 18 to 20 | 110 | 105 | 103 | 116 | 83 | 82 | 57 | 51 | 42 | 50 | 44 | 42 |
| 21 and over | 314 | 330 | 311 | 249 | 247 | 286 | 259 | 199 | 212 | 169 | 178 | 170 |
| Total | 475 | 503 | 498 | 447 | 411 | 457 | 368 | 294 | 312 | 263 | 265 | 249 |

*Number of offenders*

| *Type of offence:* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fraud and forgery | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Persons | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 to 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 12 to 14 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | — | 8 | — |
| 15 to 17 | 16 | 28 | 18 | 19 | 30 | 15 | 24 | 24 | 17 | 16 | 22 | 10 |
| 18 to 20 | 75 | 72 | 75 | 66 | 61 | 64 | 61 | 56 | 67 | 46 | 48 | 49 |
| 21 and over | 326 | 337 | 355 | 391 | 411 | 395 | 437 | 420 | 496 | 578 | 544 | 554 |
| Total | 419 | 438 | 450 | 477 | 502 | 480 | 525 | 502 | 584 | 640 | 622 | 613 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Tribunals

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many industrial tribunal cases are outstanding. [316135]

**Bridget Prentice:** At the end of December 2009, there were 387,800 live claims in Employment Tribunals across England, Wales and Scotland.

## Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young adults were in the criminal justice system in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [316210]

**Claire Ward:** It is not possible to identify and track individual contacts with the system from the data returned to the Ministry. Collecting and analysing data to answer this question would involve disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve support for young adults in the criminal justice system. [316211]

**Maria Eagle:** The National Offender Management Service provides offenders with the opportunity to learn the skills they need to get a job on release or while serving their sentence. Employment is known to be a key factor in helping to reduce re-offending. Our aim therefore is to provide more offenders with the skills and motivation to turn away from crime, improve their employability, and become productive members of society.

Steps being taken to achieve this include:

an integrated Offenders Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) for offenders, planned and funded by the Learning and Skills Council which provides learning and skills opportunities for offenders in custody and for those serving their sentence in the community;

a new OLASS provision for those in custody with significant changes; including the introduction of a core curriculum available in each prison establishment in England;

working with Sector Skills Councils to ensure that learning and skills training and accredited qualifications are relevant to employers and reflect identified labour market shortages and need;

increasingly looking at making the work undertaken within prisons by prisoners as much like real work as possible; and

working with the private sector in partnership to develop employment and skills opportunities for offenders.

The Government's investment in education provision for offenders has risen threefold from £57 million in 2001-02 to more than £175 million in 2009-10.

## Young Offenders: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on rehabilitation programmes for young people in the criminal justice system in the latest period for which figures are available. [316212]

**Maria Eagle:** All services commissioned or delivered by youth offending teams (YOTs) to young people within the criminal justice system are intended to rehabilitate them and address the causes of their offending behaviour.

The Youth Justice Board's annual report and accounts 2008-09 shows that it allocated the following funding to YOTs for the delivery of such services to 10 to 17-year-olds within the criminal justice system.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Direct YOT funding | 53.761 |
| Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programmes | 33.166 |
| Substance Misuse Programmes | 15.103 |
| Community Education and Youth Justice Practitioner Training | 9.629 |
| Other grants for intervention programmes | 2.651 |
| Total | 117.310 |

In addition, a further £297.952 million was spent on the provision of custodial places, this includes on the delivery of education and on substance misuse, which would also serve to rehabilitate young offenders.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each age group *(a)* started and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship in each quarter of the last five years. [304159]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of people starting an Apprenticeship in England is at a record level and our recent Skills Investment Strategy announced a further expansion of Advanced Apprenticeships to increase the number of skilled technicians in priority areas. Table 1 and 2 show apprenticeship starts and achievements, by age group and quarter for academic years 2004-05 to 2008-09 (provisional).

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by quarter, 2004-05 to 2008-09 (provisional)*

*2004-05*

| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter 2 (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | 200 | — | — | 700 |
| 16-18 | 55,700 | 19,300 | 14,200 | 23,400 |
| 19-24 | 25,600 | 16,400 | 15,600 | 17,500 |
| 25+ | — | — | 200 | 200 |
| Total | 81,500 | 35,700 | 30,000 | 41,800 |

*2005-06*

| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter 2 (final)* | *Quarter 3* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | 200 | — | — | 400 |
| 16-18 | 51,000 | 17,900 | 14,700 | 15,300 |
| 19-24 | 26,900 | 18,100 | 16,100 | 14,000 |
| 25+ | 100 | 100 | 100 | — |
| Total | 78,200 | 36,100 | 30,900 | 29,700 |

*2006-07*

| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter 2 (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | 200 | — | — | 400 |
| 16-18 | 54,500 | 18,600 | 14,300 | 17,700 |
| 19-24 | 28,600 | 16,000 | 16,500 | 17,500 |
| 25+ | 100 | — | — | 100 |
| Total | 83,400 | 34,600 | 30,800 | 35,700 |

*2007-08*

| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter 2 (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | 100 | — | — | 400 |
| 16-18 | 54,500 | 17,800 | 16,800 | 18,000 |
| 19-24 | 28,700 | 17,200 | 23,600 | 20,600 |
| 25+ | 1,600 | 2,700 | 8,000 | 14,700 |
| Total | 84,900 | 37,600 | 48,400 | 53,800 |

*2008-09*

| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (provisional)* | *Quarter 2 (provisional)* | *Quarter 3 (provisional)* | *Quarter 4 (provisional)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | 100 | — | — | 200 |
| 16-18 | 52,500 | 16,400 | 14,200 | 13,500 |
| 19-24 | 31,600 | 18,400 | 19,300 | 13,000 |
| 25+ | 18,300 | 14,800 | 14,400 | 7,200 |
| Total | 102,600 | 49,700 | 47,900 | 33,900 |

*Table 2: Apprenticeship achievements by quarter, 2004-05 to 2008-09 (provisional)*

| | 2004-05 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
| Under 16 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 16-18 | 8,600 | 8,000 | 8,300 | 15,000 |
| 19-24 | 5,600 | 5,500 | 6,500 | 9,500 |
| 25+ | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 14,300 | 13,600 | 14,800 | 24,600 |

| | 2005-06 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
| Under 16 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 16-18 | 14,200 | 11,300 | 11,900 | 21,200 |
| 19-24 | 9,500 | 8,300 | 8,900 | 12,9[illegible]0 |
| 25+ | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 23,800 | 19,700 | 20,900 | 34,300 |

| | 2006-07 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter 2 (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
| Under 16 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 200 |
| 16-18 | 15,800 | 12,000 | 11,500 | 25,800 |
| 19-24 | 11,100 | 9,400 | 9,800 | 15,700 |
| 25+ | — | — | 100 | 100 |
| Total | 27,100 | 21,500 | 21,500 | 41,700 |

| | 2007-08 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (final)* | *Quarter 2 (final)* | *Quarter 3 (final)* | *Quarter 4 (final)* |
| Under 16 | 100 | — | 100 | 100 |
| 16-18 | 14,300 | 11,200 | 12,300 | 25,200 |
| 19-24 | 10,800 | 9,300 | 10,800 | 17,200 |
| 25+ | — | 100 | 200 | 800 |
| Total | 25,200 | 20,600 | 23,500 | 43,400 |

| | 2008-09 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *Quarter 1 (provisional)* | *Quarter 2 (provisional)* | *Quarter 3 (provisional)* | *Quarter 4 (provisional)* |
| Under 16 | 100 | — | 100 | 100 |
| 16-18 | 15,400 | 11,000 | 12,300 | 19,000 |
| 19-24 | 12,800 | 11,200 | 12,900 | 16,000 |
| 25+ | 1,200 | 2,500 | 4,400 | 7,800 |
| Total | 29,500 | 24,700 | 29,700 | 42,900 |

— Indicates a base value of less than 50.

*Notes:*

1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Apprenticeship starts and achievements for 2008-09 are provisional and will be subject to an upward revision when final data are available for the December 2009 SFR. Based on previous year's revisions, starts may rise by approximately 2-3 per cent. and achievements by approximately 10 per cent.

3. Age is calculated based on age at start of the programme.

4. Figures are a count of the number of starts/framework achievements in each quarter. Learners starting/achieving more than one framework will appear more than once.

5. In order to be counted as a successful achievement, all elements of the framework must have been achieved.

6. Quarter 1 - 1 August to 31 October; Quarter 2 - 1 November to 31 January; Quarter 3 -1 February to 30 April; Quarter 4 -1 May to 31 July.

*Source:*

Work Based Learner and Employer Responsive Individualised Learner Record

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions there have been in each industry sector in each year since 2005. [314563]

**Kevin Brennan:** Tables 1 and 2 show Apprenticeship starts and achievements by sector subject area from 2005/06 to 2008/09. Information is not available by 'industrial sector'.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts, 2005/06 to 2008/09*

| *Sector subject area* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | 4,100 | 3,900 | 4,500 | 5,200 |
| Arts, Media and Publishing | 300 | 200 | 100 | 200 |
| Business, Administration and Law | 37,200 | 36,400 | 50,700 | 64,100 |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | 21,700 | 27,500 | 27,800 | 29,200 |
| Education and Training | 100 | 100 | 300 | 1,200 |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies | 30,900 | 34,700 | 43,100 | 37,000 |
| Health, Public Services and Care | 22,500 | 23,600 | 31,100 | 34,800 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 7,500 | 6,400 | 8,000 | 8,800 |
| Languages, Literature and Culture | * | * | * | * |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism | 5,900 | 5,600 | 6,300 | 11,300 |
| Preparation for Life and Work | * | * | * | * |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise | 40,000 | 43,000 | 49,300 | 48,000 |
| Science and Mathematics | * | * | * | * |
| Unknown | 5,000 | 2,900 | 3,500 | 100 |
| Total | 175,000 | 184,400 | 224,800 | 239,900 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. The symbol '*' indicates a value of less than 50.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

*Table 2: Apprenticeship framework achievements, 2005/06 to 2008/09*

| *Sector subject area* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | 2,100 | 2,400 | 2,500 | 3,200 |
| Arts, Media and Publishing | 200 | 200 | 200 | * |
| Business, Administration and Law | 23,800 | 25,100 | 23,600 | 36,400 |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | 14,900 | 17,300 | 17,800 | 22,300 |
| Education and Training | * | 100 | * | 200 |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies | 18,200 | 21,500 | 20,800 | 22,900 |
| Health, Public Services and Care | 10,600 | 12,900 | 13,800 | 19,400 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 4,300 | 4,900 | 5,500 | 5,700 |
| Languages, Literature and Culture | * | * | * | * |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism | 3,000 | 3,800 | 3,600 | 5,900 |
| Preparation for Life and Work | 100 | * | * | * |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise | 21,200 | 23,500 | 24,400 | 27,400 |
| Science and Mathematics | * | * | * | * |
| Unknown | 300 | 200 | 400 | * |
| Total | 98,700 | 111,800 | 112,600 | 143,400 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. The symbol '*' indicates a value of less than 50.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts and achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December, and re-issued on 21 January to include provisional national estimates of the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Supplementary table 6 shows information on apprenticeship starts and achievements by sector subject area.

### Apprentices: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which will be taken up by people *(a)* under and *(b)* over 24 years old in (i) Chorley constituency and (ii) Lancashire in the next five years. [314222]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on projected apprenticeship volumes is not available at sub-national level.

National level estimates of learner numbers for apprentices aged between 16 and 19, up to 2010/11 academic year, are published in '16-19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11':

http://readinggroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-statementofpriorities-Jan10.pdf

National level estimates of learner numbers for apprentices aged 19+, up to 2010/11 academic year, are published in the 'Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11':

http://www.bis.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/publications/Skills-Investment-Strategy.pdf

### Construction: Qualifications

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review the requirement on those who carry a card authorising them to operate construction equipment to also obtain a national vocational qualification in order to operate such equipment. [316640]

**Ian Lucas:** The Government have no locus in the running of construction industry competency card schemes, or the setting of rules. I will not therefore be undertaking a review of requirements. That said, the Government welcome the industry's drive to improve competence and good health and safety practice, and to encourage the achievement of relevant formal qualifications.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 311W, on Google adword online: advertising keywords, what keywords were paid for; and at what cost. [314826]

**Mr. McFadden:** BIS has spent, via the Central Office for Information (COI), a total of £381,056.89 on Google keywords in 2009/10 to date for the following marketing campaigns:

| *Campaign* | £ |
|---|---|
| Graduate Talent Pool | 53,732.26 |
| Vulnerable Workers and Agency Workers | 29,591.83 |
| National Minimum Wage | 40,301.80 |
| Business Link | 252,397.90 |
| i-Awards | 539.30 |
| Science: So What? So Everything | 1,179.04 |
| Employment Agency Standards | 3,314.16 |
| Total | 381,056.29 |

This covers a combination of 4,400 keywords related to these campaigns. We have not provided the full list and the amounts paid for individual keywords as the release of this information could prejudice the commercial interests of our suppliers.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313839]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has not made an estimate of the percentage of staff managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector as that information is not centrally recorded.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception. [316470]

**Mr. McFadden:** The number of BIS staff who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception is nine.

### Educational Institutions: Buildings

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on college buildings in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 2008. [313481]

**Kevin Brennan:** In total across this current spending period, Government will spend £1.7 billion on college buildings—with a further £900 million already earmarked for the next spending period.

All capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and I have asked Geoff Russell, the LSC chief executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested.

*Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 5 February 2010:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to respond to your Parliamentary Question 1057 that asked:

"how much his Department has spent on college buildings in (a) the Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) nationwide in each year since 2008".

This expenditure is the responsibility of the LSC and I am pleased to confirm the following responses to your questions which relate to the further education (FE) capital budget:

Questions (a) and (b): South Tyneside College is the only incorporated FE college with its main campus within the Jarrow constituency and also South Tyneside. For the period April 2008 to date the total amount of LSC capital grant support paid to South Tyneside College is £840,236 comprising £572,028 in the year ending 31 March 2009 and £268,208 to date in the year commencing 1 April 2009.

The college previously received capital grant support of £144,752 in 2007-08.

Question (c): The total amount of capital grant support paid in the North East Region is £85,262,939 for the period April 2008 to date comprising £45,885,576 in the year ending 31 March 2009 and £39,377,363 to date in the year commencing 1 April 2009.

Question (d): The total amount of capital grant support paid across all regions since April 2008 to date is £1,117,268,695 comprising £492,323,101 in the year ending 31 March 2009 and £624,945,594 to date in the year commencing 1 April 2009.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

### Estate Agents: Money Laundering

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether a small firms impact assessment in respect of the estate agent industry has been produced in relation to the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT's) implementation of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007; and what fee estate agents are required to pay to register with the OFT. [311805]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Office of Fair Trading has been the anti-money laundering supervisory authority for estate agents since December 2007. As Her Majesty's Treasury had carried out a regulatory impact assessment before implementation of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, the Office of Fair Trading did not produce a separate impact assessment or small firms' assessment for the registration of estate agents for money laundering purposes, when deciding to require compulsory registration. In deciding upon compulsory registration, the OFT was concerned to minimise the burdens on business and has framed the information requirements and registration fee accordingly.

For 2009-10, the fee for registration for estate agents is £115 per business premise. The fee is capped at £2,300 (or 20 premises).

### Foreign Investment in UK: China

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of foreign direct investment from China *(a)* in total, *(b)* in each sector and *(c)* in each industry sector in each of the last five years. [315758]

**Ian Lucas:** The available data are shown in the following table.

*Industrial activity of UK affiliates*

*£ million*

| | *Net foreign direct investment flows into the United Kingdom from China* | | | | | *Net FDI international investment position in the United Kingdom from China* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *end 2008* |
| Total | -26 | 13 | 12 | 16 | -20 | 202 |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Mining and quarrying (including oil/gas) | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Food products | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Textile and wood, printing and publishing | [2]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Chemical, plastic and fuel products | [2]— | [2]— | [1]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Metal and mechanical products | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Office, IT and communications equipment | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | [1]— |
| Transport equipment | [1]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Other manufacturing | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Electricity, gas and water | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Construction | [1]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Retail/wholesale trade and repairs | [2]— | 9 | 7 | 11 | 0 | 59 |
| Hotels and restaurants | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Transport and communications | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | [2]— | 1 |
| Financial services | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 1 | 0 | [2]— |
| Real estate and business services | 0 | 1 | [2]— | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Other services | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |

[1] Indicates that no data were returned

[2] Indicates that data are disclosive and cannot be published

*Source:*

ONS Business Monitor MA4, Tables 5.3 and 6.3

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [313947]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department will arrange for the policy and practices with regards management of stress, and advice to employees, to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

These are the policies/practices used by the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory

Reform (BERR); the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not at present have harmonised policies/practices from the merging of the former BERR and former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). DIUS used policies/practices from the other Government Departments from which they were formed in an earlier machinery of Government change.

### Licensing

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its agencies have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315282]

**Mr. McFadden:** Two fonts were purchased by the former BERR in 2008/09 at a cost of £40.46.

Fonts which were already in use for printed materials and website use were chosen as the official corporate fonts when BIS was created in July 2009 and also when BERR was created in June 2007.

### Minimum Wage: Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of those resident in Hemsworth constituency have been paid at the national minimum wage rate since its introduction. [316621]

**Mr. McFadden:** Data for earnings are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at this level in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

At the regional level it is not possible to infer the number of employees earning exactly at the national minimum wage (NMW) with sufficient certainty. However it is possible to estimate the number who were paid at or below the NMW.

At the Government office region level the most recent figure from BIS analysis of the 2009 ASHE indicates the number of jobholders who were paid at or below the NMW in April 2009 in the Yorkshire and Humber region was 78,000.

### National Star College: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with the National Star Centre on its capital programme; and how much funding his Department has allocated to that programme. [316035]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have frequent meetings with a wide range of college principles as well as regular dialogue with the Association of Colleges, the 157 group and other sector representatives. To date National Star College has received £1.96 million in capital grant support but the College was unsuccessful in the prioritisation exercise carried out by the Learning and Skills Council in 2009.

Capital investment will continue with £1.7 billion invested directly into the FE estate this spending period with a further £900 million already earmarked for the next spending period. The LSC continues to consult the sector through the Association of Colleges Reference Panel to determine how future resource will best be invested.

### New Industries: New Jobs

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he has allocated to the New Industries, New Jobs strategy in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much has been allocated to Wales. [315797]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 5 February 2010]*: 'New Industry, New Jobs' is the Government's active industrial strategy, covering cross-economy issues such as skills and innovation as well as sectoral and geographic interventions. It therefore encompasses a broad range of financial instruments.

The Strategic Investment Fund was set at Budget 2009 specifically to underpin 'New Industry, New Jobs'. The SIF aims to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance. The original fund of £750 million was increased by £200 million in the pre-Budget report in December 2010, and we expect to spend around £200 million by the end of this financial year. The whole fund is to be spent by March 2011.

Much of this money is being distributed through UK wide mechanisms such as the UK Innovation Investment Fund and the Technology Strategy Board. As a UK-wide fund, many of the projects supported by the SIF are themselves UK-wide in geographical scope, as are the expected economic benefits. In addition to UK-wide schemes, there are two specific projects located in Wales. These are a £10 million contribution to a high performance computing centre in South Wales and a SIF contribution to the £340 million announced for repayable launch investment to Airbus, which is benefiting the facility at Broughton in North Wales.

### Olympic Games: Canada

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310843]

**Mr. McFadden:** No Ministers from the Department are planning to attend the winter Olympics in Vancouver. A small number of officials will be attending in an official capacity to deliver a programme of events and activity to promote British business capability, inward investment and partnership opportunities in general (for the UK) as well as business opportunities arising from the London 2012 games. Our 'Host2Host' partnership arrangement with the Province of British Columbia has resulted in a high level of cooperation and cost saving in general regarding our events programme.

Officials will also be taking the opportunity to learn 'business operational activity' during the games both at Provincial and Federal level which will inform UKTI/BIS strategy for activity during the 2012 games. The actual cost for their attendance is not yet available.

## Overseas Investment: China

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of UK direct investment *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each (i) sector and (ii) industry in China in each of the last five years. [315759]

**Ian Lucas:** The available data are shown in the following table.

*Industrial activity of foreign affiliates*

*£ million*

| | *Net foreign direct investment flows from the United Kingdom into China* | | | | | *Net FDI international investment position from the United Kingdom in China* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *end 2008* |
| Total | 539 | 598 | 374 | 1,138 | 1,036 | 4,222 |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | [2]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Mining and quarrying (including oil/gas) | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| Food products | 10 | 114 | 2 | 5 | 156 | 457 |
| Textile and wood, printing and publishing | 6 | 6 | 0 | -2 | 7 | 69 |
| Chemical, plastic and fuel products | 77 | 47 | 7 | 48 | 16 | 751 |
| Metal and mechanical products | 25 | 26 | 30 | 40 | -62 | 149 |
| Office, IT and communications equipment | [2]— | 6 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | -1 |
| Transport equipment | [2]— | 7 | -24 | 6 | -3 | [2]— |
| Other manufacturing | 0 | 43 | 67 | 68 | 124 | 558 |
| Electricity, gas and water | [2]— | [2]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Construction | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| Retail/wholesale trade and repairs | 10 | 71 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 154 |
| Hotels and restaurants | [2]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Transport and communications | 58 | 31 | 31 | 10 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Financial services | -1 | [2]— | 57 | [2]— | [2]— | 337 |
| Real estate and business services | 52 | 40 | 22 | 46 | 73 | 144 |
| Other services | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |

[1] Indicates that no data were returned

[2] Indicates that data are disclosive and cannot be published

*Source:*

ONS Business Monitor MA4, Tables 2.3 and 3.3

## Sandwell

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the borough of Sandwell, the effects on that borough of changes to the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316474]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have put in place a wide-ranging programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007 the economic performance of all parts of the UK improved considerably. The policies of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its predecessors) have focused on building a competitive economy, delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The regional development agency Advantage West Midlands (AWM) was established by the Government in 1998 to lead economic development work in the west midlands. The implementation of BIS policy in Sandwell has been taken forward primarily by AWM and the Government office for the west midlands, working with Sandwell metropolitan borough council and other local partners. The Government and their regional and local partners have responded vigorously to the global recession, providing assistance to companies and individuals.

Consistent datasets going back to 1997 are not available for all key issues; the following statistics therefore start from the earliest date for which comparable data are available:

(i) The level of skills in Sandwell has improved significantly with the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least NVQ2 level having increased from 31.8 per cent. to 45.0 per cent. between 1999 and 2008. Over the same period the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least NVQ3 increased from 19.8 per cent. to 25.3 per cent. and the proportion qualified to at least NVQ4 increased from 10.2 per cent. to 13.9 per cent.

(ii) The number of businesses registered for VAT increased from 5,385 at the start of 2001 to 6,495 at the beginning of 2008.

(iii) Business Link West Midlands (BLWM) is the main provider of business support in the region. It helped 135 businesses to start in Sandwell during 2007-08, 202 in 2008-09 and has assisted a further 170 businesses to start-up in the 10 months to the end of January 2010. BLWM also provided intensive assistance to 546 businesses in the borough in 2007-08, 825 in 2008-09 and 632 in the first 10 months of the current financial year.

(iv) AWM has offered Grants for Business Investment (GBI) funding to 42 firms in Sandwell since 2004. The grants were worth a total of £5.9 million and have created 483 new jobs and safeguarded a further 554.

(v) Between September and December 2009 19 companies in the automotive supply chain based in Sandwell received £338,740 support under the £4.5 million Automotive Recovery Programme (ARP). The programme was funded by AWM and the European Regional Development Fund and managed by the Manufacturing Advisory Service-West Midlands (MAS-WM). Following a robust capability review it funded specialist strategic consultancy to provide struggling component part makers with help with business consolidation, refinancing, new product introduction and restructuring. Six of the companies have already returned results showing that the assistance provided has led to business worth over £20 million being safeguarded or obtained, leading to the creation of safeguarding of 58 jobs.

(vi) In December, Stoford Ltd. signed an agreement with BT for 75,000 sq ft of office space at its new £55 million All Saints office development in West Bromwich. The building will support BT's Transform Sandwell partnership with Sandwell metropolitan borough council creating up to 450 new jobs. Advantage West Midlands has committed £11 million to the All Saints project.

### Students: Lewes

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people from the Lewes district council area became full-time undergraduate students in each year since 1997; and how many such people *(a)* were from each socio-economic group and *(b)* had parents from each socio-economic group. [315773]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information for Lewes district council area is not available and figures for Lewes constituency are provided as an alternative.

Figures for each academic year from 2002-03 to 2007-08 are provided in the attached table. Socio-economic classification (SEC) was introduced into higher education student data in the 2002-03 academic year and, therefore, figures for earlier years (which show the former social classification) are not comparable.

Figures are provided for full-time undergraduate entrants aged under 21, and 21 and over, as data on socio-economic class is gathered on a different basis for these two distinct age groups. Socio-economic class is derived from information on occupation. For entrants aged under 21 this is based on the occupation of their parent, and for those aged 21 and over it is based on their own occupation.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year have been excluded from this answer as they are not directly comparable with those for 2002-03 to 2007-08 due to a change in the way parental or student occupation information was gathered. As a result of the change, it is not possible to determine whether the 2008-09 socio-economic class relates to the student or their parent.

*Full-time undergraduate entrants from Lewes constituency[1] by age and socio-economic classification[2]: UK higher education institutions[3] academic years 2002-03 to 2007-08*

| | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Socio-economic classification* | *<21* | *21+* | *<21* | *21+* | *<21* | *21+* | *<21* | *21+* | *<21* | *21+* | *<21* | *21+* |
| Higher managerial and professional occupations | 75 | 5 | 95 | 10 | 90 | 10 | 100 | 10 | 85 | 5 | 80 | 0 |
| Lower managerial and professional occupations | 85 | 25 | 120 | 10 | 105 | 25 | 105 | 15 | 105 | 15 | 100 | 20 |
| Intermediate occupations | 35 | 10 | 35 | 10 | 45 | 15 | 45 | 5 | 45 | 5 | 35 | 15 |
| Small employers and own account workers | 20 | 0 | 30 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 20 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 25 | 5 |
| Lower supervisory and technical occupations | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Semi-routine occupations | 20 | 15 | 25 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 10 |
| Routine occupations | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| Total Known | 255 | 60 | 325 | 50 | 310 | 75 | 325 | 50 | 310 | 50 | 285 | 55 |
| Missing[4] | 110 | 65 | 50 | 75 | 60 | 55 | 75 | 65 | 75 | 65 | 70 | 90 |

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing, not classified or "Never worked and long-term unemployed".

*Note:*

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

### UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with which companies the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation has key account management relationships; and what the purpose of such a relationship is in each case. [315189]

**Ian Lucas:** As part of its customer-focused engagement strategy, UK Trade and Investment's Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) has key account management relationships with (in alphabetical order):

BAE Systems
Chemring
Cobham
EADS UK
Finmeccanica UK companies
General Dynamics UK
Lockheed Martin UK
MBDA UK
Northrop Grumman UK
QinetiQ
Rolls-Royce plc
Smiths Detection
Thales UK.

Additional key account relationships are planned.

These relationships consist of formal engagement to increase understanding of the company's strategic priorities, enabling DSO to provide enhanced support.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who the members are of *(a)* the UK Trade and Industry Defence and Security Organisation Defence Advisory Group and *(b)* the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation Security Advisory Group; what the background is of each such member; and when each was appointed. [315190]

**Ian Lucas:** Current membership of the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation *(a)* Defence Advisory Group and *(b)* Security Advisory Group are included in the following tables. Members of the Defence Advisory Group were appointed from 1 July 2008; members of the Security Advisory Group were appointed on 4 August 2008 except for the last two named who were appointed on 1 December 2009. The members attend and offer their advice on a personal basis, drawing from their experience in, or related to, the defence and security sectors.

*Defence Advisory Group members*

| *Name* | *Company* |
|---|---|
| Sir Kevin Tebbit (chair) | Finmeccanica |
| Victor Chavez | Thales UK |
| Clifford Dewell | General Dynamics UK |
| Martin Fausset | Rolls Royce |
| Stephen Fitz-Gerald | Cobham |
| Adrian Geal | Defence Aviation Consultant |
| Bob Keen | BAE Systems |
| Dr. David Price | Chemring Group |
| David Handell | MSI Defence Systems |
| Jeffrey Miles | Defence Consultant |
| Kieron Sambrook-Smith | Deep-Secure Ltd. |
| Dr. Alexandra Ashbourne | Associate Fellow Royal United Services Institute |
| Iain Burgess | Ernst and Young |
| Philipa Foster-B[illegible] | Institute of Business Ethics |
| Ian Godden | A/D/S |
| Rear Admiral Reef Ward | A/D/S |

*Security Advisory Group members*

| *Name* | *Company* |
|---|---|
| Stephen Phipson (chair) | Smiths Detection |
| Andrew Boyd | QinetiQ |
| John Davies | TDSI Ltd. |
| Ann Fitz-Gerald | Cranfield university |
| Shaun Hipgrave | Forensic Telecommunications Services Ltd. |
| Andrew Knights | Selectamark Security Systems |
| Ian Pickerell | Thales UK Ltd. |
| Stephen Whitby | EADS Defence and Security Ltd. |
| Mike Critchley | Ultra Electronics Ltd. |
| John Hughes | Selex Communications |
| Brett Lovegrove | Valentis Bridge Ltd. |
| Michael Clarke | G4S |
| Martin Sutherland | Detica |

## Unemployment: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people under 25 years old were not in employment, education or training in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* each region in (i) 1997, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008-09. [314618]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table gives estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education employment or training (NEET) in each region in the fourth quarter of 2000, 2007 and 2008. This information is from the labour force survey (LFS). Due to incomplete data, estimates are not available prior to 2000.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with the confidence intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a 95 per cent. CI of +1-3.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 3.2pp above the estimate and 3.2pp below the estimate, for 95 per cent. of estimates.

The LFS sample is not large enough to provide estimates for small geographies such as constituencies.

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[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals

*Table: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training for each region*

| *Region* | *Q4: NEET number* | | | *Q4: NEET percentage* | | | *Q4: Confidence Intervals (pp)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000* | *2007* | *2008* | *2000* | *2007* | *2008* | *2008* |
| North [illegible]st | 50,000 | 49,000 | 54,000 | 18.3 | 15.3 | 16.7 | +/-3.2 |
| North W[illegible] | 95,000 | 120,000 | 142,000 | 13.5 | 14.2 | 16.8 | +/-2.0 |
| Yorks and Humber | 75,000 | 82,000 | 92,000 | 13.9 | 12.3 | 13.6 | +/-2.0 |
| East Midlands | 56000 | 70000 | 68000 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 12.8 | +/-2.2 |
| West Midlands | 82,000 | 93,000 | 105,000 | 15.0 | 14.7 | 16.4 | +/-2.3 |
| East of England | 54,000 | 74,000 | 79,000 | 10.3 | 12.1 | 12.9 | +/-2.1 |
| London | 95,000 | 123,000 | 131,000 | 11.3 | 14.2 | 14.6 | +/-2.0 |
| South East | 74,000 | 116,000 | 122000 | 9.3 | 12.8 | 13.2 | +/-1.7 |
| South West | 48,000 | 56,000 | 63,000 | 10.3 | 9.8 | 11.1 | +/-2.1 |
| England | 629,000 | 782,000 | 857,000 | 12.3 | 13.1 | 14.2 | +/-0.7 |

*Note:*
Base: 16 to 24 year olds, England
*Source:*
Quarter 4 labour force survey

## Vocational Training: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to vocational training in each of the last three years. [316034]

**Kevin Brennan:** Train to Gain and Apprenticeships are the primary programmes that deliver vocational learning to learners aged 19+ that are funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The funding that has been allocated to these programmes for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are given in the table following table.

In addition to these programmes, vocational learning forms an element of a number of other programmes that are funded by the LSC, including Foundation Learning and Response to Redundancy programmes.

*£ million*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apprenticeships 19+ | 332 | 380 | 398 |
| Train to Gain | 826 | 926 | 983 |

Source:
BIS Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 10 February 2010*

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Local Government: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many Boundary Committee employees have visited Suffolk for the purposes of their work on the reorganisation of local government in Suffolk; what the duration of the stay was of each such visit; and what the cost was of *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* subsistence in respect of each such visit. [314863]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that seven Boundary Committee staff visited Suffolk in connection with the structural review of local government in Suffolk.

The Commission further informs me that as the reviews of Suffolk and Norfolk were closely linked in the Secretary of State's request for advice, meetings in the two counties were frequently held on the same day, or on consecutive days. Accommodation and subsistence costs relating to these meetings were recorded together.

The total accommodation and subsistence cost of the visits to Suffolk, calculated where necessary on a pro rata basis according to the proportion of time spent at Suffolk meetings, was £1564.38. I will write to the hon. Member with a detailed breakdown of these costs and will place a copy of my letter in the Library.

### Postal Votes

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the average proportion of returned postal votes sent back to local authorities within 24 hours of close of poll in each of the last five years. [308783]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that there is no requirement for returning officers to record the number of postal ballot packs received in any period before the close of poll. Returning officers are required to report the number of postal ballot packs returned in the 25 days after the close of poll, including those which were deemed undeliverable by the Royal Mail, and the latest figures are available on the Commission website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Returning officers are not required to provide information relating solely to the period of 24 hours after close of poll.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Expenses

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces received annual remuneration, including benefits, of at least £100,000 in the latest year for which figures are available. [316375]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are currently 800 out of 174,890 members of the armed forces who are paid in excess of £100,000. 674 of these are in the medical and dental professions reflecting the special skills they are required to hold. The remainder are senior officers in a variety of strategic leadership and senior command appointments.

### Armed Forces: Furniture

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on household furniture for properties occupied by members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above. [316373]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested.

Furniture is made available for all members of the armed forces who occupy public accommodation if it is requested and a charge for its use is reflected in the rent deducted from the occupant. There is no requirement to separately account for the furniture provided to all officers of 1 Star status and above.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on accommodation for members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in each of the last 12 months. [316391]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]*: The information is not held in the format requested.

Members of the armed forces are entitled to live in publicly funded accommodation. Where this is not available, accommodation will be provided through either substitute service single accommodation or substitute service family accommodation. There is no requirement to separately account for the accommodation provided to all officers in the group requested.

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in each of the last 12 months. [316392]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]*: The information is not held in the format requested.

Hotel accommodation is required when a member of the armed forces is on temporary duty away from their parent unit and there is no Service facility that can accommodate them locally.

The majority of the MOD's hotel bookings are made through the Defence Hotel Reservation Service. However, this is not exclusive, as hotel accommodation may be included in a residential training course or privately arranged at very short notice.

To determine how much has been spent by this specific group would require a manual search of a number of records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are stationed at each location in Northern Ireland. [316410]

**Bill Rammell:** As at 1 November 2009 the number of regular service personnel stationed at regular military locations in Northern Ireland was as follows:

| *Location* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinler | 680 |
| Joint Helicopter Command Flying Station, Aldergrove | 850 |
| Duke of Connaught Unit, Belfast[1] | 50 |
| Kinnegar Base | 360 |
| Massereene Barracks, Antrim | 510 |
| Palace Barracks, Holywood | 690 |
| Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn | 1290 |

[1] As MOD announced in a written ministerial statement on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 89, DCU will close by 1 April 2010.

In addition there were some 100 regular service personnel serving at Reserve Forces locations throughout Northern Ireland.

### Armed Forces: Official Cars

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on hired cars for members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in each of the last 12 months. [316376]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held in the format requested.

When a member of the armed forces is required to travel on duty the most economical mode of travel is to be utilised. When travel by road is necessary, pool cars will be used. However, when this is not available a hire car will be authorised. There is no requirement to separately account for the hire cars provided to those officers in the group requested. To do so would require the manual search of all requests which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on overseas travel for members of the armed forces with a rank of Brigadier or equivalent and above in each of the last 12 months. [316377]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested.

When there is a need to travel overseas, MOD charter aircraft will be used where possible. When this is not available, overseas travel will be arranged through Hogg Robinson Travel, under contract to the MOD, to ensure the best value for money is obtained. However, this is not exclusive, as overseas travel may be included as part of a training course or privately arranged at very short notice.

There is no requirement to account for the rank of brigadier or equivalent and above separately and to do so would require a manual search of records thus incurring a disproportionate cost.

Greater use of video and telephone conferencing is being encouraged to reduce the time and money expended on overseas travel.

### Depleted Uranium: Scotland

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times depleted uranium shells have been test-fired in Scotland in 2009 at each test-firing location. [316751]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** No depleted uranium shells were test-fired in Scotland in 2009. The last test firings took place on 11 and 12 March 2008, when a total of 20 rounds were fired at the Kirkcudbright Range in Scotland

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many problems have been reported with the Brimstone missile system *(a)* in operational situations and *(b)* during testing since it entered service. [316510]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There have been no reported problems with the original Brimstone missile system since it entered service in 2005. A variant, known as Dual Mode Seeker (DMS) Brimstone, was developed as an Urgent Operational Requirement; it entered operational service in 2008. Since then, two problems have been reported and these are being addressed in consultation with the prime contractor. Neither prevents the DMS Brimstone missile system being used operationally.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft: Cost

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to date of development of the Brimstone missile system has been. [316511]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The cost of developing the original Brimstone Missile System was £370 million. Dual Mode Seeker (DMS) Brimstone was developed as a variant of the original Brimstone system. Development costs specifically for the DMS variant amounted to about £10 million.

### RAF Lyneham: Weather

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days RAF Lyneham was closed as a result of recent adverse weather conditions. [315787][1]

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1.*[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol 506, c. 4MC.]*

**Bill Rammell:** Between 1 and 17 January, RAF Lyneham closed only once on 6 January between 2.40 am and 3.12 pm, a total of 11 and a half hours. This was to enable the runway to be cleared of snow and ice. This limited period of closure was due to the fact that Lyneham has a short runway and clearance could be completed quickly.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the effect of meteorological differences between RAF Lyneham and RAF Brize Norton on their operational sustainability. [315788]

**Bill Rammell:** An assessment of weather factors at various RAF airfields during the period 2004-09 indicated that while neither station was closed for flying operations on a frequent or regular basis, RAF Lyneham was unavailable to aircraft, because of poor weather conditions, on marginally more occasions than RAF Brize Norton.

Careful consideration of all relevant factors was made in coming to the decision to base the Air Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling Fleet at RAF Brize Norton.

The runway at RAF Lyneham is not long enough to facilitate all of the aircraft in the RAF's Air Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling Fleets. RAF Brize Norton is assessed to be fully capable of operationally sustaining the Air Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling Fleets.

## SCOTLAND

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316426]

**Ann McKechin:** The cost for Scotland Office ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statements and are available in the Libraries of the House.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what recent estimate he has made of the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313793]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) currently owns three residential properties of which one is empty and two are occupied.

The empty residential property is currently for sale at a value of £180,000. There is no potential annual rental figure available for this property.

One occupied residential property has a fixed asset register value of £366,827. Annual rental figure for this property is £12,000 per annum.

The third residential property has a fixed asset register value of £288,260. There is no potential annual rental figure available for this property.

Potential rental value for the two occupied properties is kept under regular review.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316457]

**Paul Goggins:** There were 118 employees in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. The Northern Ireland Office robustly monitors and takes appropriate action in the management of all sickness absence.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Research

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to ensure that the outputs from publicly-funded research related to agriculture are available for on-farm use. [315972]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Research is commissioned to inform policy development and dissemination for on-farm use is through specific policy areas. All DEFRA-funded research is publicly available on the DEFRA website. In addition, DEFRA joint funds research with industry through Farming and Food LINK programmes.

### Cabinet Committees: Food

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates the Cabinet Sub-Committee on food has met since its creation; and who attended each meeting. [315006]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The sub-committee has met four times since its creation. However, further information is not available in the form requested, as the proceedings of Cabinet Committees are not generally disclosed. The membership of the sub-committee and its terms of reference are available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/daf.aspx

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312826]

**Dan Norris:** The information is as follows:

### *Core DEFRA (including Animal Health, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Marine Fisheries Agency)*

The following table shows the number of staff at those grades which hold line management responsibility as at 31 December 2009, expressed as full-time equivalents, along with the average annual pay costs for each grade for a single individual. Pay costs include salary, allowances, non-consolidated performance related variable pay, National Insurance contributions and superannuation charges. Further associated employment costs are only available at disproportionate cost. Staff numbers include permanent and fixed-term appointments.

Senior Civil Service figures shown include staff in the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA).

| *Grade* | *Staff in post (FTE)* | *Average annual pay cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| EO | 890.41 | 32,559 |
| HEO | 896.14 | 39,593 |
| SEO | 374.38 | 48,770 |
| Grade 7 | 807.67 | 65,860 |
| Grade 6 | 153.28 | 79,310 |
| SCS Deputy Director | 137.56 | 110,246 |
| SCS Director | 22.79 | 144,966 |
| SCS Director General | 5.36 | 187,684 |
| Permanent Secretary | 0.89 | 237,490 |

### *Rural Payment Agency*

RPA has seven layers of management from the SCS (Director) level to Executive Office (EO). In the 2008-09 financial year this equated to 1,622.55 people (FTE).

The amount spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff in each management layer below the SCS are shown in the following table:

| *Grade levels* | *Staff Number (FTE)*[1] | *Cost (£000)*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Grade 6 | 26.67 | 2,161 |
| Grade 7 | 83.79 | 5,462 |
| SEO | 162.94 | 7,988 |
| HEO | 390.66 | 15,240 |
| EO | 951.13 | 30,354 |
| Grand Total | 3338.77 | 101,419 |

[1] Staff numbers include all permanent and fixed term employed staff shown as full time equivalent (FTE)

[2] Costs include salaries, employer national insurance contributions, superannuation, social security costs, and early retirement/severance expenditure.

*Note:*

Information has been taken from the 2008-09 Annual Report

### *Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science*

The following table summarises staff in post, expressed as full-time equivalents, for each relevant grade. It also shows the total pay by grade for the month of December 2009 and the average cost per grade for the same.

| *Grade* | *FTEs as at 31 December 2009* | *Pay by grade for December, 2009 (inc ERs Pension and NIC) (£)* | *Average pay cost by grade for December, 2009 (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| PB3 (EO) | 85 | 150,499 | 1,777 |
| PB4 (HEO) | 123 | 266,726 | 2,166 |
| PB5 (HSO) | 111 | 324,146 | 2,916 |
| PB6 (SSO) | 96 | 343,930 | 3,580 |
| PB7 (Grade 7) | 49 | 246,258 | 5,013 |
| PB8 (Grade 6) | 20 | 132,529 | 6,571 |

### *Veterinary Laboratories Agency*

The following table summarises the number of staff by grade, expressed as full-time equivalents, and the salary and associated costs for the 2008-09 financial year for each grade. Costs include overtime, sale of annual leave and bonus payments.

| *Pay band* | *Headcount by pay band FTE* | *Salary and associated costs 2008-09 FY (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Pay Band A (G6) | 19.39 | 2,013,415 |
| Pay Band B (G7) | 42.98 | 3,383,888 |
| Pay Band C (SEO) | 161.43 | 7,830,307 |
| Pay Band D (HEO) | 158.09 | 6,320,099 |
| Pay Band E (EO) | 259.35 | 8,134,704 |

### *Food and Environment Research Agency*

The following table summarises non-SCS staff in post as at 31 December 2009, expressed as full time equivalents. It also shows the average paybill cost for an individual in each grade. Paybill costs include salary, employer's national insurance contributions and employer's superannuation payments.

| *Grade* | *FTE in post as at 31 December 2009* | *Average paybill cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Band 3 (EO) | 218.6 | 28,329 |
| Band 4 (HEO) | 219.6 | 36,658 |
| Band 5 (SEO) | 111.7 | 45,417 |
| Band 6 (G7) | 73.3 | 63,119 |
| Band 7 (G6) | 16.5 | 79,173 |

## Feltham

**Alan Keen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Feltham and Heston constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [316676]

**Dan Norris:** Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Feltham and Heston, which falls under Hounslow council, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Hounslow is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected Department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its public service agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 report is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Hounslow, the Government Office for London is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

## Floods: Cumbria

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been made available to clear debris and polluted material from farmland following the 2009 floods in Cumbria; and if he will make a statement. [316539]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has made £500,000 from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) available to farmers affected by the Cumbrian floods, to help bring their land back to agricultural use. This will provide up to £6,800 per applicant and is being delivered by the RDPE Local Action Groups. The deadline for applications for this funding has been extended until 26 February 2010.

## Hotels

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials of his Department in each of the last five years. [305663]

**Dan Norris:** A centralised booking service contract was introduced in the core department in late 2006-07, from which the information stated has been taken and therefore only covers the period January to March 2007 of the 2006-07 year. Information prior to this date and hotel accommodation used but not reserved through the central booking service contract could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 87,950 |
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 358, 866 |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 541,311 |
| April 2009 to November 2009 | 399,140 |

Information on the split of hotel expenditure between Ministers, special advisers and civil servants could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Travel by Ministers and special advisers, and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. The Cabinet Office produces annual lists of overseas trips undertaken by Ministers costing over £500.

These can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The list for 2008-09 was published on 16 July 2009. This and earlier lists are available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309061]

**Dan Norris:** A centralised booking service contract was introduced in late 2006-07, from which the information stated has been taken and therefore only covers the period January to March 2007 of 2006-07.

The number of hotel room nights booked over this period by officials in the core-Department, and the agencies for which such information is held, are in the table.

The significant number of nights in 2007-08 for Animal Health relates to the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks.

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Core-DEFRA | 971 | 3,840 | 6,108 | 4,343 |
| Animal Health Agency | 623 | 20,515 | 682 | 2 |
| Rural Payments Agency | — | 5,510 | 13,149 | 9,887 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 23 | 301 | 390 | 259 |

[1] April to November.

Bookings made by officials outside the centralised booking service could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fees were not paid to third party agents for the bookings.

## Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will put in place supporting measures for fishermen not permitted to fish in ancestral grounds following the entry into force of the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 establishing Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Conservation Zones. [316931]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Special Areas of Conservation (SACS) are not designated as a result of the provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Act. They are created through the Habitats Regulations 1994 and Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007, transposing the EC Habitats Directive. Fishing activity is not necessarily entirely prohibited in these areas, or in Marine Conservation Zones.

We want to work with the industry to minimise the impact of designations on fishing activity, and to develop a package of mitigation and adaptation support. There are real opportunities for the fishermen affected to be involved in this work. The European Fisheries Fund offers opportunities for financial support to the industry in order to assist with adaptation. Additionally, the Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries Project aims to set out proposals for long term sustainability in the fleet later this year.

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 establishing Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Conservation Zones to enter into force. [316932]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Part 5 of the Act (Nature Conservation) commenced in England on 12 January 2010. On this date Lundy Island, originally designated as a Marine Nature Reserve under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, automatically became our first MCZ. The Government have asked the statutory nature conservation bodies to come forward with advice by autumn 2011 on sites to be designated as Marine Conservation Zones. They will then consult interested parties in 2012 before taking final decisions on designation later in that year.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under the provisions of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007, which transpose the EC habitats and wild birds directives, not under the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

Under these directives, member states are required to nominate sites to the European Commission. The Government expect to nominate an additional 10 SACs, and two further Special Protection Areas under the wild birds directive, to the Commission in October 2010. Stakeholders are consulted on the scientific case before nominations are put forward to the Commission.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the US administration on the closure of Guantánamo Bay. [316864]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK has long called for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Ministers and officials continue to discuss with the US Government how best we can work with them to achieve this goal, most recently in January 2010. The UK has already made a significant contribution to reducing the number of detainees in Guantanamo Bay by taking back 14 individuals. We will continue to share our experience in accepting former Guantanamo detainees with our European partners and others to help support the closure of the facility.

### British Overseas Territories: EC Grants and Loans

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether overseas territories are eligible to apply for funding from EU research programmes. [316607]

**Chris Bryant:** In accordance with Article 58 of the Overseas Association Decision (OAD), the instrument which determines the relationship between the EU and the overseas countries and territories (OCTs), Territories are eligible for funding from EU research programmes.

Territories have found it difficult in practice to access this and other funding streams to which they are eligible. This is an area which I and my officials have raised regularly with the Commission and it is something which we want to address in the re-negotiation of the OAD.

### Burma: Arms Trade

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the government of *(a)* Canada, *(b)* New Zealand and *(c)* Brazil on an arms embargo against Burma. [316244]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government maintains a dialogue with a wide range of international partners on Burma, including the governments of Canada and New Zealand. In recent weeks we have also shared details of our position on Burma with Brazil, which became a non-permanent member of the Security Council in January.

In August 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and his fellow UN Security Council members underlining that no one should be selling arms to a military regime with an appalling human rights record. A global arms embargo remains a priority for this Government, and we will continue to press for progress in our bilateral contacts and in relevant multi-lateral fora.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of arms trading with Burma, with particular reference to arms from *(a)* India, *(b)* Russia and *(c)* China; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such trade on the situation in Burma. [316582]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government believe that no one should be selling arms to the Burmese regime in view of their appalling human rights record and the high likelihood arms supplied will be use for internal repression. An EU arms embargo has been in place since 1996, and we are working to build support for a global arms embargo. To this end, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to the UN Secretary General and all members of the Security Council in August 2009.

Reports suggest that India, China and Russia have all supplied arms to Burma. China is believed to be the leading arms supplier and in early January 2010, media reports suggested Russia had agreed to supply $600 million of combat aircraft and arms to the Burma regime. In response to these reports, our embassy in Moscow raised our concerns with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ability of Burma to continue to purchase arms from a wide range of suppliers has helped to reduce their defence and security costs and modernise an army responsible for widespread and systematic human rights abuses.

### Burma: Human Rights

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had in the United Nations Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly on reports of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma. [316245]

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with *(a)* his EU counterparts, *(b)* the United Nations Human Rights Council and *(c)* the United Nations General Assembly on reports of crimes against humanity in Burma. [316378]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government remain deeply concerned at the human rights situation in Burma and we regularly raise the issue with EU and other international partners, and in the UN's human rights bodies. At the last session of the Human Rights Council in September 2009, and at the UN General Assembly in November 2009, we helped to secure strong resolutions condemning the Burmese regime for ongoing and systematic human rights abuses. We will be looking to raise the issue again, and secure a further resolution, at the next session of the Human Rights Council in March 2010. In addition, we continue to give our full support to the efforts of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, Thomas Ojea Quintana, who is due to visit the country soon.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for the outcome of the United Nations Human Rights Council meeting on Burma. [316380]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** At the 13th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2010 we will work to secure a further, strong resolution condemning the continuing human right abuses in Burma. In our national intervention, and in the resolution text, we will seek to emphasise that the dire human rights situation, including the continued detention of 2100 political prisoners, child labour and the treatment of displaced people remain cause of significant concern. Burma's treatment of political leaders and suppression of freedom of expression undermine the credibility of elections planned for later this year.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to secure EU targeted sanctions against the government of Burma until the human rights situation in Burma improves. [316581]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government continue to believe that targeted EU sanctions against the military regime in Burma are an important means of maintaining pressure for political reform and respect for human rights. Sanctions introduced in 1996 have been strengthened over time, notably after the Saffron Revolution in 2007, and in August 2009 in response to the guilty verdict in Aung San Suu Kyi's trial. They are now among the EU's toughest autonomous measures against any country. The UK will not support any easing of sanctions in the absence of tangible progress on the ground.

### Burma: Political Prisoners

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions in the United Nations Human Rights Council on the arrest of pro-democracy activist Nyi Nyi Aung in Burma in September 2009. [316241]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are deeply concerned at the arrest and imprisonment of Nyi Nyi Aung and are monitoring his case closely.

We continue to take every opportunity to raise the detention of Burma's 2100 political prisoners in the UN's Human Rights bodies. At the last session of the Human Rights Council in September 2009, and at the UN General Assembly in November 2009, we helped to secure strong resolutions calling for the release of all of political prisoners. We will be looking to raise the issue again, and secure a further resolution, at the next session of the Human Rights Council in March 2010.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Burmese authorities on permitting the International Committee of the Red Cross to resume its inspection of prisons in Burma. [316242]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The refusal of the Burmese authorities to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) independent and unsupervised access to political prisoners remains a grave concern, particularly as the number of prisoners of conscience has doubled to over 2100 since the 'Saffron revolution' in autumn 2007. We continue to urge the military government to co-operate fully with the ICRC and allow an immediate resumption of prison visits.

The UN General Assembly highlighted their concern at the condition of prisons and urged the regime to comply with human rights law in a resolution passed in November 2009. Our Ambassador in Rangoon last raised the issue of independent prison access for the ICRC to the Burmese government in August 2009 during the last visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma. Our Ambassador regularly raises the plight of political prisoners with Burmese ministers, and we remain in close contact with the ICRC on this issue.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the recent sentencing and imprisonment of a journalist who worked with the Democratic Voice of Burma. [316243]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are aware that Democratic Voice of Burma journalist Ngwe Soe Lin was sentenced to 13 years in prison on 27 January 2010 by a Burmese military court for offences under the Electronic and

Immigration Emergency Provisions Acts. This case follows the recent sentencing of two other journalists from the Democratic Voice of Burma to 20 and 26 years imprisonment respectively. At least 13 journalists and bloggers are currently detained in Burma, as the Burmese authorities seek to prevent the free flow of information in advance of elections planned for later this year.

The Government have consistently called on the military authorities to release all of Burma's over 2100 prisoners of conscience. Without their release, elections planned for later this year can have no international credibility.

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the United Nations Security Council to undertake a review of the 2008 Burmese constitution together with representatives of *(a)* pro-democracy, *(b)* ethnic and *(c)* other groups in Burma. [316379]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In November 2009 the UK helped to secure a UN General Assembly Resolution on the human rights situation in Burma, which called on the Burmese authorities to undertake a transparent, inclusive and comprehensive review of the Constitution while fully engaging with the democratic opposition and ethnic groups. We believe that a process of dialogue involving all actors in Burma will ensure a sustainable transition to democracy. This view is shared by other members of the EU and the United States of America.

In the UN Security Council, we regularly test the level of consensus for action on Burma, and have succeeded in securing discussion and a number of important Presidential Statements since autumn 2007. We do not judge, however, that an attempt to secure a Security Council review on the 2008 Constitution now would be successful. A resolution on Burma tabled in January 2007 was vetoed by two Permanent Members of the Council and any attempt to invalidate the Constitution will suffer the same fate.

### China: Christianity

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Chinese authorities on the case of the Alimjan Himit. [316240]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The case of Alimjan Himit (who is also known as Alimujiang Yimiti) was last raised at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2009 as part of an individual case list. At that time we urged the Chinese to consider freeing Alimjan, and to ensure he had access to a defence lawyer. The Chinese replied then that Alimjan was being detained in Kashgar Detention Centre, that his physical conditions were normal and that he enjoyed the rights to family visits and to hire a defence lawyer. We will continue to monitor his case and raise it wherever appropriate.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315562]

**Chris Bryant:** No.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK embassies provide office space to officials of the Department for International Development; and how much is charged to that Department for that provision. [314181]

**Chris Bryant:** Co-location is the preferred option for both the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

We have 27 co-locations (Kabul, Luanda, Sarajevo, Brazilia, Rangoon, Phnom Penh, Kinshasa, Addis Ababa, Georgetown, Baghdad, Kingston, Amman, Nairobi, Lilongwe, Chisinau, Islamabad, Moscow, Kigali, Belgrade, Dushanbe, Dar Es Salaam, Bangkok, Kampala, Hanoi, Sana'a, Lusaka and Harare), which include locations where DfID occupy office space supplied by the FCO, share the same building as the FCO (all the named above except Kabul, Kinshasa, Addis Ababa, Islamabad, Moscow, Kampala, and Hanoi) or where DfID own properties on land provided by the FCO. We have a further 11 co-location projects in various stages of planning.

In 2008-09, the FCO charged DfID a total of £648,000 on the basis of office space occupied and services consumed.

### Departmental Internet

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and networking sites; and at what cost. [315937]

**Chris Bryant:** One full-time member of staff maintains the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's blog platform at:

http://blogs.fco.gov.uk

and free social media channels such as Twitter:

www.twitter.com/foreignoffice

It is not possible to separate out the cost of the blog platform from the cost of the global web platform.

### Departmental Meetings

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department have had with (A) Niall Fitzgerald, (B) Keith Craig, (C) Sir Rod Eddington, (D) Sir Kieran Prendergast, (E) Robert Webb QC and (F) Mark Getty since 1 January 2009. [313776]

**Chris Bryant:** Ministers and officials meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings. A record of all individuals met by Foreign and Commonwealth officials and Ministers is not held centrally.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312430]

**Chris Bryant:** I refer the hon. Member to the response provided by my hon. Friend. Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report* column 190W, in relation to 2007-08.

As my hon. Friend explained in her response, furnishings are not recorded in the fixed assets register. It would not be possible to provide the information required without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spend on motor vehicles in 2008-09 was £15,463,000. The majority of spend was for vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan. These require additional security features that significantly increase costs. FCO Services spend on motor vehicles in 2008-09 was £179,000.

There was no spend on works of art.

### Diplomatic Service: Pay

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 239W, on departmental manpower. what the annual salary is of each *(a)* ambassador and *(b)* high commissioner serving overseas. [316233]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* Our ambassadors and high commissioners (heads of mission) abroad are appointed from a range of civil service grades.

The pay ranges for staff in the senior civil service are determined centrally and based on the findings of the independent senior salaries review body.

For staff below the senior civil service, Departments are responsible for setting their own salary ranges following guidance issued by HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office.

The average salary for a head of mission is £80,852. Information on the number of heads of mission receiving salaries over £90,000 is provided in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual departmental report, which can be viewed at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/4103709/5476465/departmental-report/dept-report-vol2-2

### EC Law

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the scope and application of Article 122 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; whether he has sought legal advice on the scope and application of Article 122; what assessment he has made of any financial liability arising from the use of Article 122 to provide financial assistance to an EU member state in financial difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [315693]

**David Miliband:** The scope and application of Article 122 were subject to extensive debate during the passage of the Lisbon Treaty Bill. Any request for financial support in accordance with Article 122 would need to satisfy the specific criteria set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and would be considered on its individual merits by the EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council, where it would be voted upon by qualified majority.

### G20: Greater London

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many companies tendered for the contract for the supply of public relations services for the London Summit with the heads of the G20 in April 2009; and to which company the contract was awarded. [315328]

**Chris Bryant:** As stated in my reply to the hon. Member on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2232W, no external public relations or public affairs firms were contracted to provide support for the London G20 summit. Eight companies submitted bids.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316428]

**Chris Bryant:** Costs to Departments of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statement and are available in the Libraries of the House. Any other costs incurred with Government Car and Despatch Agency are not recorded centrally and are available only, at disproportionate cost.

### Government Hospitality: Wines

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 101W, on Government hospitality: wines, if he will publish the most recent *(a)* paper and *(b)* electronic copy of the Government wine cellar database. [314170]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 29 January 2010]:* The Government hospitality wine database contains sensitive commercial details about the pricing of wines as well as subjective comments on individual stock items, which could prove both commercially and reputationally damaging to suppliers and producers if released. I will place an illustrative list of wines held in the cellar in the Library of the House.

### Haiti

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Haiti in an official capacity. [315916]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary continues to follow the situation in Haiti closely and is in regular contact with our ambassador, the UN Secretary General and other counterparts, including Secretary Clinton. He has no plans to visit at this time.

### Hakluyt

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1112-13W, on Hakluyt, what contacts Ministers in his Department have had with Hakluyt and Co since 1 January 2009; on what dates such contacts took place; and what form such contacts took. [312788]

**Chris Bryant:** Ministers and officials meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings. A record of all individuals met by Foreign and Commonwealth officials and Ministers is not held centrally.

### Legal Services Commission: Billing

**Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Legal Services Commission has undertaken to observe the prompt payment code. [316110]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is not a formal signatory of the Prompt Payment Code—a Government initiative introduced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to tackle the issue of late payments to businesses. However, the LSC has already taken its own steps to regulate and accelerate payments to legal aid providers. Standard monthly payments (SMP's) are made in advance for advice work completed under contract and in addition, weekly payments are made on bills submitted for civil representation work.

### Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [315594]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) made the following payments to the Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA). Records are not available for the period 2000-02.

| | *Total cost including VAT (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 82,595 |
| 2008-09 | 33,185 |
| 2007-08 | 7,257 |
| 2006-07 | 2,402 |
| 2005-06 | 2,209 |
| 2004-05 | 2,239 |
| 2003-04 | 2,068 |
| 2002-03 | 1,779 |

Prior to 2007 the FCO had a paper cuttings service. When we moved to the more environmentally friendly digital service, the NLA increased its fee as the digital information can now be provided across the whole of the FCO's worldwide network rather than just in the UK.

### Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the upholding of democratic principles through its activities. [315914]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in regular contact with his counterparts in the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and will, as appropriate, discuss the OSCE's democratisation related activities.

Most recently, he spoke to Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister, Kanat Saudabayev, on 8 January 2010. The Foreign Secretary welcomed Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the OSCE for 2010. He underlined the importance the UK attaches to the OSCE's work across all three dimensions—politico-military, economic and environmental and the human dimension which includes human rights and good governance. I reiterated these points during my 28 January meeting with Foreign Minister Saudabayev.

### Palestinians

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits to Gaza have been made by officials of his Department in the course of their duties in the last 12 months. [316213]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our officials based in Jerusalem and, to a lesser extent, Tel Aviv, have visited Gaza on more than 20 occasions since January 2009. Our consulate general in Jerusalem also has two members of local staff permanently based in Gaza.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government has spent on measures to combat piracy around the Horn of Africa in the last 12 months. [315918]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Piracy off Somalia is being tackled comprehensively across Government Departments in line with the Government's Somalia Strategy and in close co-ordination with international partners.

Over the last 12 months, the UK has contributed to three international counter-piracy operations: this has included the provision of the operation Headquarters and Operation Commander to the EU Naval Force (Operation ATALANTA). The common funded budget for Op ATALANTA in 2009-10, which is paid through the Athena mechanism, currently amounts to €17.64 million, with the UK share approximately £1.15 million. The UK also provides a frigate, tanker, the Deputy Commander and staff to Combined Maritime Forces;

and a frigate to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Operation OCEAN SHIELD. Furthermore the UK also provides the UK Maritime Trade Organisation, co-ordinating the movement of merchant shipping and acting as a first point of contact for any ships attacked in the region. The cost of all Ministry of Defence counter piracy activity is not recorded centrally.

It is widely recognised that the solution to piracy lies on land in Somalia through security, economic, and judicial development. As part of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has led and funded two regional needs assessments missions including all key donors to discuss with Somali representatives and others in the region the priorities for capability development in the legal, judicial, penal and maritime security sectors. In line with the internationally agreed outcomes of these needs assessments, the UK and other partners are supporting security sector reform in the region, including assistance to coastguards that will improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. The FCO has also funded the participation of Somali representatives in CGPCS-related activity.

### Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

**Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account is taken of the views of Sri Lankans resident in the UK in formulating UK foreign policy on Sri Lanka. [316580]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In formulating its policy towards Sri Lanka the UK takes into consideration all relevant factors, including the views of the Government of Sri Lanka and other international partners. The views of British nationals of Sri Lankan origin are also considered. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office regularly meet with representatives from Sri Lankan communities. Ministers and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Sri Lanka, the right hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), have also had meetings with them. The UK's view remains that lasting peace in Sri Lanka can only come about through a fully inclusive political process that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict. Following the recent presidential election in Sri Lanka my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to President Rajapakse urging him to use his mandate to take forward that process. Genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities will depend in large part on the Government protecting and promoting the rights of all Sri Lankans.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposed appointment of a mediator for Sudan. [316358]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have pressed for strong UN and African Union (AU) leadership as Sudan enters this crucial period, for example in my joint statement on 9 January 2010 with Hilary Clinton and Jonas Store on the fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock and the UK Special Representative for Sudan discussed these issues during the AU summit in January with Haile Menkerios, the new Special Representative of the Secretary General for the UN Mission, and Ibrahim Gambari, the new AU/UN Joint Special Representative for the AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur. We are also working closely to support the efforts of Djibril Bassole as AU/UN Chief Mediator on Darfur, and Thabo Mbeki as chair of the AU High Level Panel. In liaison with international partners, we will continue to press too for maximum co-ordination and efficiency between them.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed with the Secretary of State for International Development the matter of the end of the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [3163[illegible]1]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign Secretary, International Development Secretary and other Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers work very closely together on Sudan, drawing on the work of the Joint DFID-FCO Sudan Unit. My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock and my hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development gave a joint press briefing on 6 January 2010 ahead of the fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21534511

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for a more proactive mandate for the United Nations Mission in Sudan at the meeting of the UN Security Council in April 2010. [316357]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have consistently pressed for a proactive, robust approach by the UN Mission (UNMIS) in Sudan. My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock and the UK Special Representative for Sudan discussed these issues with the new UNMIS Special Representative of the Secretary General, Haile Menkerios, and UN officials at the African Union Summit on 27-28 January 2010. During Security Council consultations on 26 January 2010 we urged the Council to prioritise protection of civilians in the UNMIS mandate. This will remain a priority for the UK in the lead up to the mandate renewal in April.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed Sudan with the *(a)* US administration, *(b)* Chinese government and *(c)* African Union. [316359]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** At the African Union (AU) summit on 27-28 January my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock discussed Sudan with US Special Envoy Scott Gration and senior State and National Security Council officials, the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister and the AU Peace and Security Commissioner. We will continue to engage with them and with others both in the region and internationally.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what redesigns of websites operated by his Office have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306191]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 888W.

### Dissolution

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what progress has been made on his proposal that the approval of the House of Commons should be sought for a request for a dissolution of Parliament since 3 July 2007; [316337]

(2) whether he plans to seek the approval of the House before exercising his power to request a dissolution of Parliament. [316382]

**The Prime Minister:** This proposal is subject to ongoing inquiry by Parliament.

## WALES

### Rural Economy

10. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met the First Minister to discuss the prospects for the rural economy in Wales. [315873]

**Mr. Hain:** A strong rural economy is vital to Wales as a whole, even more so as we exit the recession and look to continue to grow over the coming year.

### Employment

11. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of levels of employment in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [315874]

**Mr. Hain:** Latest figures show that the employment level in Wales increased by 6,000 on last quarter, to 1.304 million, an increase of 94,000 since 1997.

The Government's extra investment in jobs, education and training is making a real difference in Wales, helping people through the recession and preventing the kind of unemployment we saw haunt Wales in the eighties and nineties. This fragile recovery would be wrecked by the Tories.

### ProAct and ReAct

13. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the ProAct and ReAct programmes in Wales. [315876]

**Mr. Hain:** Since the start of the economic crisis we have worked in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government through the regular All Wales Economic Summits, where initiatives such as ProAct were born.

One of the main focuses of the next All Wales Economic Summit which I will attend tomorrow in Llanelli will be the ProAct initiative.

### South Wales Police

14. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on levels of public confidence in South Wales Police. [315877]

**Mr. David:** South Wales Police have an excellent record on dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour. I would therefore like to see higher levels of public confidence, though I am pleased to note that latest figures from the British Crime Survey do show the number of respondents expressing confidence in delivery has increased by over 22 per cent. since last year.

The Policing White Paper contains a raft of measures aimed at improving public confidence in the Police across England and Wales. Where a force, such as South Wales, is performing well on dealing with crime but public confidence remains low, this could be due to a number of reasons. For example more work might need to be done to ensure the successful work taking place is being communicated effectively to the public. The commitments to information provision and holding public forums within the policing pledge should assist with this.

### Knowledge Economy

**Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the development of the knowledge economy in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [315875]

**Mr. David:** I have regular discussions with the First Minister on the Welsh economy and he and I both recognise the importance of developing the knowledge economy in Wales.

Now that the UK economy has returned to growth it is vital that we ensure our workforce and our innovative businesses are equipped to face the challenges of the recovery.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316453]

**Mr. David:** Nil.

## Elections

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the new First Minister on means of encouraging greater voter participation in Wales in the forthcoming general election. [316222]

**Mr. Hain:** I discuss a range of issues including means of encouraging voter participation with the First Minister. The level of turnout in recent elections have been disappointing and the Government and the Electoral Commission are always looking at ways of addressing this issue.

## Exports

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what the monetary value was of high technology sector exports from Wales *(a)* in total and *(b)* to China in the last five years; [315789]

(2) what the monetary value was of exports from each *(a)* sector and *(b)* industry in Wales in each of the last five years; [315790]

(3) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of financial services provided from Wales to overseas in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of UK exports *(a)* in total and *(b)* to China such services accounted for in each of the last five years. [315794]

**Mr. Hain:** A breakdown of total Welsh exports by product sector is provided in Table 1 and similar data for exports to China are provided in Table 2.

No breakdown exists that details high technology products although some of the industries in the tables do have high technology as a feature of their activity. For exports to China, information can be provided only for the top four industries and no breakdown of the export of financial services is available.

These figures clearly demonstrate the vibrancy of Welsh exports and their strength in new markets with total exports to China in creasing by over 60 per cent. in the last year for which figutes are available.

*Table 1: Value of Welsh exports to all countries, latest data*

*Value (£ million)*

| *Product sector* | *Year ending* Q3 2005 | Q3 2006 | Q3 2007 | Q3 2008 | Q3 2009[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Energy | 1,248.5 | 1,732.0 | 1,649.6 | 2,339.8 | 1,933.6 |
| Engineering | 1,651.7 | 1,441.1 | 1,169.6 | 1,170.6 | 1,165.7 |
| Metals | 1,654.7 | 1,855.2 | 2,204.9 | 2,107.0 | 1,640.1 |
| Chemicals | 1,319.5 | 1,160.6 | 1,075.1 | 1,160.8 | 1,091.9 |
| IT and electronics | 460.5 | 450.6 | 507.8 | 661.3 | 554.4 |
| Automotive | 845.1 | 666.4 | 702.0 | 562.0 | 492.1 |
| Biotechnology and pharmaceuticals | 101.0 | 145.4 | 202.5 | 420.1 | 362.1 |
| Household goods | 446.9 | 349.1 | 337.2 | 294.9 | 240.4 |
| Healthcare | 182.7 | 193.8 | 177.6 | 206.2 | 193.1 |
| Paper and packaging | 197.0 | 151.7 | 190.4 | 188.2 | 187.7 |
| Telecommunications | 221.8 | 125.1 | 141.8 | 145.5 | 146.5 |
| Giftware | 129.8 | 101.3 | 96.8 | 111.4 | 135.6 |
| Agriculture | 121.6 | 146.7 | 117.2 | 96.4 | 115.2 |

*Table 1: Value of Welsh exports to all countries, latest data*

*Value (£ million)*

| *Product sector* | *Year ending* Q3 2005 | Q3 2006 | Q3 2007 | Q3 2008 | Q3 2009[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recreation and leisure | 97.2 | 97.3 | 93.7 | 98.0 | 103.6 |
| Food and drink | 56.9 | 41.7 | 30.2 | 65.0 | 76.5 |
| Oil and gas | 29.8 | 51.1 | 58.1 | 68.2 | 75.6 |
| Building | 61.3 | 92.1 | 86.0 | 85.6 | 73.7 |
| Environment | 29.5 | 27.2 | 29.1 | 35.8 | 39.5 |
| Textiles | 46.2 | 40.1 | 30.7 | 35.8 | 33.6 |
| Clothing | 15.9 | 16.3 | 21.6 | 25.4 | 29.6 |
| Security | 22.7 | 20.1 | 23.4 | 26.6 | 23.6 |
| Creative and media | 41.5 | 22.5 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 18.0 |
| Transport | 9.8 | 16.6 | 10.0 | 9.0 | 12.4 |
| Unknown | 0.1 | 0.7 | 12.1 | 22.4 | 23.4 |
| Total | 8,700.9 | 9,330.5 | 9,087.6 | 10,253.5 | 9,397.7 |

[1] Provisional

Source:

Statistics and Analysis of Trade Unit, HM Revenue and Customs, 25 November 2009

*Table 2: Value of Welsh exports to China, latest data*

*Value (£ million)*

| *Product sector* | *Year ending* Q3 2005 | Q3 2006 | Q3 2007 | Q3 2008 | Q3 2009[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Top 4 sectors by value in latest year* | | | | | |
| Engineering | 123.3 | 101.3 | 50.1 | 68.7 | 153.8 |
| Chemicals | 10.7 | 13.8 | 14.2 | 13.5 | 19.0 |
| Metals | 18.1 | 29.6 | 28.3 | 26.8 | 19.0 |
| Automotive | 1.5 | 2.1 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 5.5 |
| Other | 13.6 | 12.0 | 12.1 | 18.8 | 17.0 |
| Total | 167.0 | 158.8 | 108.7 | 132.2 | 214.4 |

[1] Provisional

Source:

Statistics and Analysis of Trade Unit, HM Revenue and Customs, 25 November 2009

## Iron and Steel: China

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* monetary value of (i) iron and (ii) steel was exported from Wales to China in the last five years; [315792]

(2) what proportion of exports from Wales *(a)* in total and *(b)* to China was accounted for by exports of (i) iron and (ii) steel in each of the last five years. [315793]

**Mr. Hain:** The following table shows the total quantity and monetary value of iron and steel exports from Wales both in total and to China for each of the last five years. Figures for iron and steel are not available separately.

Iron and steel accounted for the following proportions of *(a)* total exports and *(b)* exports to China:

*Percentage*

| | *(a) Total exports* | *(b) Exports to China* |
|---|---|---|
| Year to Q3 2005 | 13.5 | 16.8 |
| Year to Q3 2006 | 13.2 | 13.0 |
| Year to Q3 2007 | 16.5 | 17.7 |
| Year to Q3 2008 | 17.2 | 18.3 |
| Year to Q3 2009 | 14.0 | 8.5 |

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of any advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [316478]

**Mr. David:** The Wales Office is a small Government Department, which operates under the Ministry of Justice and does not therefore issue independent advice to staff on stress recognition and management.

Upon joining the Wales Office all staff are made aware that they have access to the Ministry of Justice intranet site, which contains a detailed section on stress awareness and management.

### Trade Promotion: China

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps his Department has taken to promote high technology and value-added *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* services from Wales in China in the last five years. [315791]

**Mr. Hain:** Promoting Welsh exports is principally the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government through International Business Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government's activity in China is demand led and, in recent years, its trade missions and International Trade Opportunities programme has focused on general activity in response to the needs of its clients. However, through their association with the China Britain Business Council, the Welsh Assembly Government remains well placed to help companies with specific interest in high technology opportunities.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Apprentices

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people have completed apprenticeships on the Olympic site since construction began; and how many are in full-time employment. [310360]

**Tessa Jowell:** Olympic Delivery Authority figures show that in November 2009 there were 120 apprentices in full-time employment on the London 2012 apprenticeship programme. Many apprentices will continue their training after they leave the Olympic site, and so the ODA and its partners aim to offer 350 apprenticeship places by 2012. Since the programme commenced in May 2009, a total of six apprentices have completed their training.

### Olympic Games 2012: Construction

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what volume of freight of each type of material has been *(a)* delivered to and *(b)* removed from the London Olympic site by water. [314099]

**Tessa Jowell:** As part of its investment in sustainable transport, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has made a significant investment in the waterways in and around the Olympic Park, improving the environment and increasing the functionality to enable the use of the waterways for freight and recreation. This has been assisted by the construction of Three Mills Lock which opened in June 2009.

Between January and December 2009, the volume of freight traffic using the waterways, both into and out of the Olympic Park construction site is as follows:

> Barges have transported off the Olympic Park site, 300 tonnes of general waste and timber for recycling, and 1,750 tonnes of residual material from the soil washing plants.
>
> In addition, 600 tonnes of shingle and lightweight aggregate and 460 tonnes of pile cage reinforcement and pipework.
>
> The ODA has an aspiration to transport 50 per cent. of construction material (by weight) by sustainable means to the Olympic Park by rail and water. It is currently achieving 63 per cent.

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many construction vehicles were in use on all Olympic construction sites on 1 January 2010; and how many such vehicles were fitted with carbon particulate filters. [314733]

**Tessa Jowell:** The ODA and its contractors currently have approximately 1,650 plant and vehicles on the Olympic Park.

Of these, 1,320 are plant (considered as 'non-road mobile machinery') and 330 are road vehicles. The figures exclude road haulage vehicles delivering construction materials to site.

The ODA has a number of measures in place to address the effects of the works on air quality. These measures include the use of ultra low sulphur diesel in all plant, laying hard surface haul roads around site, using dust suppressants and managing the timing and location of works to minimise air quality impacts. Air quality monitoring reports are published monthly on the London 2012 website.

All commercial road vehicles and construction plant used on the Olympic Park, including stationary plant, must comply with any legislative requirements. The ODA does not have data for road vehicles that are not permanently based on the Olympic Park, and the ODA has confirmed that the permanent machinery (non road mobile machinery) do not have filters fitted. However, a study is being undertaken currently that will consider the case for fitting of carbon particulate filters as well as establishing cost effectiveness of installation against other measures. The study is due to be completed in February 2010.

New EU legislation will require that emissions of particulate pollutants are reduced in new machinery across industry. One of the methods of reducing particulates could be to introduce filters. This legislation is being introduced in a phased approach dependent on engine size over the next four years.

All commercial road vehicles and construction plant used on Olympics venues outside the Park must comply with the same legislative requirements; however the ODA does not hold statistics of similar depth for these venues.

### Olympic Games 2012: Food

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) if she will direct the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games to ensure that over half of the chicken and egg products on sale at the London 2012 Olympic Games are procured from producers which adhere to high animal welfare standards; [316045]

(2) if she will require catering outlets and franchises awarded contracts for the London 2012 Olympic Games to undertake to *(a)* use (i) non-cage and (ii) domestically-produced eggs and *(b)* procure other food produced to high animal welfare standards. [316046]

**Tessa Jowell:** Animal welfare is extremely important and this is a central part of the London 2012 Food Vision.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), a company limited by guarantee, is responsible for staging the London 2012 Games.

In line with the recently published sustainability plan 'Towards a One Planet 2012', LOCOG has now published 'For Starters', its policy for food. This proposes benchmark and aspirational standards for how it will source food for the Games. LOCOG has set out that the Red Tractor standard will be the benchmark standard across meat, fruit, vegetables, salads, cereals and dairy.

Red Tractor is a food assurance scheme, run by the Assured Food Standards organisation. It covers production standards developed by experts on safety, hygiene, animal welfare and the environment; this means that all dairy products, beef, lamb and poultry must be British. In addition, eggs must be British Lion mark free range.

### Olympic Games 2012: Timber

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent assessment is of the likely effect on businesses of the decision of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games to create a different timber procurement policy to that of the Olympic Delivery Authority. [315582]

**Tessa Jowell:** Both the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) are committed to a sustainable London 2012, including procuring timber from sustainable sources.

LOCOG and the ODA have worked closely with the timber industry, including the Timber Trade Federation, and relevant NGOs such as WWF on the development of both organisations' approach to procurement and the application of sustainability.

LOCOG's approach is broadly in line with that of the ODA in that both organisations require certified timber products, although their needs and by definition their supply chains differ, with LOCOG largely focused on items such as furniture, merchandise and publications while ODA procured raw materials for construction.

Many businesses have directly benefited from the £5 billion of contracts let by the Olympic Delivery Authority so far, 98 per cent. of which are UK companies. Businesses will continue to benefit from the remaining ODA contracts and the contracts which LOCOG will be procuring. When deciding which of the Government-approved policies to follow in the procurement of timber, LOCOG took a business decision taking into account ethical and operational considerations including ease of monitoring and verification. UK businesses are well placed to bid for the various timber contracts for London 2012.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Correspondence

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to how many *(a)* emails and *(b)* letters from members of the public his Department has responded since May 2007. [317075]

**Mr. Simon:** Since May 2007 my Department has responded to *(a)* 9,926 emails and *(b)* 7,928 letters from members of the public including requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [317073]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department's accounting system does not separately record information on expenditure on Ministerial Hospitality and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

### Departmental Travel

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on international travel since 2007. [317076]

**Mr. Simon:** All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

The information requested is set out in the table.

*Expenditure on international travel*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2009-10[1] | 81,220 |
| 2008-09 | 286,360 |
| 2007-08 | 298,590 |

[1] To January 2010

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316789]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested is set out in the table.

| *Financial year* | *Payments to the Government Car and Despatch Agency (£)* | *Proportion of spend on the Government Car Service (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 (to January 2010) | 284,330 | 96.6 |
| 2008-09 | 317,840 | 95.5 |
| 2007-08 | 337,310 | 95.1 |
| 2006-07 | 418,900 | 96.2 |
| 2005-06 | 388,790 | 96.3 |
| 2004-05 | 368,930 | 95.4 |

All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

## Music: Licensing

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the typical financial cost to *(a)* charities, *(b)* places of worship and *(c)* voluntary groups of the recent changes to public performance rights exemptions in sound records and performers' rights. [312268]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

As part of the Government's consultation process we commissioned a final impact assessment from independent consultants, Europe Economics. It was published on 12 November with the Government response and a summary was placed in the House Library. This assessment estimated the impact on broad groupings which would be affected. Voluntary groups may also be charities and it is not possible to separate them out further.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. However, PPL has stated that its current equivalent commercial fees range between £54 and £108 per year and it envisages that most organisations will pay fees at the lower end of this range or even lower. They have also confirmed that they will not charge in a number of circumstances including music used as part of divine worship and family occasions such as weddings.

## National Lottery

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been provided to each National Lottery distributor in each year since 2006-07 *(a)* in real terms and *(b)* in cash terms. [316771]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested is set out in the table:

*£000*

| | *2006-07 actual* | *2006-07 real terms*[1] | *2007-08 actual* | *2007-08 real terms*[1] | *2008-09 actual*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 231,040 | 243,705 | 217,043 | 222,519 | 207,632 |
| Big Lottery Fund | 630,507 | 665,071 | 651,124 | 667,522 | 612,508 |
| Arts Council England | 149,330 | 157,516 | 151,450 | 155,271 | 144,887 |
| Arts Council Wales | 10,797 | 11,389 | 10,849 | 11,123 | 10,382 |
| Scottish Arts Council | 16,886 | 17,812 | 16,799 | 17,223 | 16,071 |
| Arts Council Northern Ireland | 6,752 | 7,122 | 6,081 | 6,234 | 5,814 |
| UK Film Council | 26,302 | 27,744 | 29,344 | 30,084 | 28,071 |
| Scottish Screen | 2,537 | 2,676 | 2,517 | 2,581 | 2,408 |
| Sport England | 124,985 | 131,837 | 134,565 | 137,960 | 128,733 |
| Sports Council of Wales | 9,462 | 9,980 | 9,767 | 10,013 | 9,344 |
| SportScotland | 18,503 | 19,517 | 17,580 | 18,023 | 16,819 |
| Sport Northern Ireland | 6,261 | 6,604 | 5,643 | 5,785 | 5,398 |
| UK Sport | 53,921 | 56,877 | 49,485 | 50,734 | 49,813 |
| Olympic Lottery Distributor | 115,759 | 122,105 | 151,229 | 155,045 | 211,029 |

[1] Using 2008-09 = 100. [2] Net of transfers totalling £73 million between NLDF and OLDF.

## National Lottery: Operating Costs

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate his Department has made of the expenditure on administration of each of the National Lottery distributors in the latest period for which figures are available; and what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce such costs. [316729]

**Mr. Simon:** Lottery distributors' administration costs can be found in their annual reports and accounts. These costs are not comparable, however, as administration costs vary considerably depending on the type and size of grant given and the amounts that applicants receive.

My Department has encouraged the national lottery distributors to keep their administration costs as low as possible and to share best practice.

As part of the Operational Efficiency Programme the lottery distributors are working closely with my Department to identify savings through greater collaboration in back-office functions.

## Sports: Schools

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in each school year participating regularly in competitive *(a)* intra-school and *(b)* inter-school sport. [316732]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The 2008-09 School Sport Survey showed that 99 per cent. of schools hold their own sports days; 69 per cent. of pupils are playing competitive house or league sport within their own schools (up from 66 per cent. in 2007-08 and 58 per cent. in 2006-07); and 44 per cent. of pupils are playing competitive sport against other schools (up from 41per. cent. in 2007-08 and 35 per cent. in 2006-07).

We aim to increase the regularity with which children play competitive sport and have included new questions in the School Sport Survey to measure how regularly pupils compete (both within schools and between schools).

28 per cent. of pupils from years three-13 regularly participated in intra-school competition whilst 19 per cent. of pupils from years three-13 regularly participated in inter-school competition.

The tables outline *(a)* the percentage of pupils who regularly participated in intra-school competition during the academic year 2008-09 by year group:

| *Academic year* | *Percentage of pupils involved* |
|---|---|
| Year 3 | 30 |
| Year 4 | 34 |
| Year 5 | 41 |
| Year 6 | 45 |
| Year 7 | 28 |
| Year 8 | 27 |
| Year 9 | 25 |
| Year 10 | 20 |
| Year 11 | 16 |
| Year 12 | 7 |
| Year 13 | 6 |

Base: All pupils in years three-13 where information given (5,472,339) and *(b)* the percentage of pupils who regularly participated in inter-school competition during the academic year2008-09 by year group:

| *Academic year* | *Percentage of pupils involved* |
|---|---|
| Year 3 | 10 |
| Year 4 | 15 |
| Year 5 | 27 |
| Year 6 | 36 |
| Year 7 | 21 |
| Year 8 | 21 |
| Year 9 | 20 |
| Year 10 | 17 |
| Year 11 | 14 |
| Year 12 | 9 |
| Year 13 | 9 |

Base: All pupils in years three-13 where information given (5,472,635) From 2008-11, the Government are investing over £25 million into a network of 225 competition managers to increase the number of young people engaged in regular high quality inter-school competitive events.

Furthermore, the Government are making universal access to regular competitive sport a key part of its new pupil guarantee, which will enshrine in law our commitment to provide competitive sport for all.

### Streatham

**Keith Hill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on Streatham constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313399]

**Mr. Simon:** My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries. The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Streatham constituency since 1997 include:

£364,206 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Streatham in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Arts programme.

Digital Switchover is due to take place in Streatham in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£4,990 of Exchequer investment to the Streatham constituency provided through Sport England between 2002-03 and 2009-10.

Over £18 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Streatham constituency since 1997.

The Streatham constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 1 million free swims taken in London in the first six months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09—10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

### Swimming: Concessions

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated for its free swimming schemes in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [316731]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Free Swimming Programme (FSP), launched in April 2009, is a £140 million package comprising contributions from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The scheme is guaranteed to run for at least two years—the period covered by the Government's current spending review (2009-10 and 2010-11) and applies in England only.

For 2010-11, the DCMS has allocated £5 million in resource funding and £10 million in capital funding.

Decisions on the extent of future spending on the programme have not yet been made.

## TREASURY

### Child Care Vouchers

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest assessment is of the effectiveness of the Childcare Voucher scheme; and if he will make a statement. [316224]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Research by the National Centre for Social Research, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm estimates the proportion of employers that offer employer supported childcare (ESC) and the proportion of eligible employees that were using ESC at the end of 2005.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [309910]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury provides training to Ministers on a range of issues, including handling the media if required, in order to carry out their duties effectively under the ministerial code.

### Inheritance Tax: Greater London

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 215-6W, on inheritance tax: Eltham, how many estates paid inheritance tax in *(a)* Greenwich, *(b)* each other London borough and *(c)* the area most closely corresponding to the parliamentary constituency of Eltham in each of the last five years; [316415]

(2) how many estates would have been required to pay inheritance tax had the threshold been set at *(a)* £1 million and *(b)* £325,000 in (i) Greenwich, (ii) each other London borough and *(c)* the area most closely corresponding to the parliamentary constituency of Eltham in each of the last five years; [316416]

(3) how many estates in Eltham constituency for which the postcodes in respect of completed inheritance tax returns are available would have been required to pay inheritance tax had the threshold been set at *(a)* £325,000 and *(b)* £1 million in each of the last five years; [316417]

(4) how many estates in Eltham constituency for which the postcodes in respect of completed inheritance tax returns are available paid inheritance tax in each of the last five years. [316418]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Revenue and Customs estimates that in 2007-08 around 5,000 estates paid inheritance tax in the Government office region (GOR) of London. Information at a sub-regional level is available only at disproportionate cost.

Reliable information for other years is not available due to the large proportion of missing postcodes on inheritance tax returns.

Information on how many estimates would be required to pay inheritance tax if the threshold were £1 million is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/foi_inheritance_costing.pdf

Information on the impact of this policy other than at a national level is not available.

### PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the outcomes were of the HM Revenue and Customs annual review of errors in respect of automatically-processed Pay-As-You-Earn in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [312150]

(2) what the all-cases accuracy rate was for *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* Pay-As-You-Earn for (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312323]

(3) how many *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* Pay-As-You-Earn cases were processed manually in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312324]

(4) what the accuracy rate was for *(a)* Pay-As-You-Earn and *(b)* self-assessment cases processed (i) automatically and (ii) manually in (A) 2006, (B) 2007, (C) 2008 and (D) 2009; [312325]

(5) what the tax effect accuracy rate was for *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* Pay-As-You-Earn for (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312326]

(6) what the causes were of the tax effect errors in the *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* Pay-As-You-Earn system in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312327]

(7) how many P35s were manually processed in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; [313960]

(8) what the tax effect error percentages for the collection of national insurance through PAYE were in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [313968]

**Mr. Timms:** The number of self assessment (SA) and Pay as You Earn (PAYE) returns processed manually is set in the following table.

| *Tax return year* | *PAYE End of year returns* | | *SA* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *P35* | *P14* | *Individuals* |
| 2005-06 | 539,150 | 3,798,120 | 4,988,969 |
| 2006-07 | 370,736 | 3,413,174 | 4,118,006 |
| 2007-08 | 277,045 | 2,039,303 | 2,314,728 |
| 2008-09 | 197,592 | 1,766,424 | [1]— |

[1] Not yet available

The requested information on accuracy rates is set out in the following table. HM Revenue and Customs do not use the concept of 'tax effect errors' in the context of national insurance contributions.

*Percentage*

| *PAYE* | *All cases accuracy* | *Automatic process accuracy* | *Manual process accuracy* | *Tax effect accuracy*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 94.7 | n/a | 79.9 | 79.9 |
| 2006-07 | 95.1 | 99.8 | 82.1 | 82.1 |
| 2007-08 | 95.1 | 99.8 | 83.4 | 83.4 |
| 2008-09 | 96.2 | 99.8 | 83.5 | 83.5 |

[1] The PAYE tax effect accuracy results relate to those cases which require a manual intervention and which have been accurately processed to within £1.

Many of the SA cases recorded as not processed accurately will be due to the coding number not being reviewed. In the majority of cases, the coding error is corrected when the SA return is submitted and the taxpayer's tax calculation will ensure the correct amount of tax has been paid.

*Percentage*

| *SA* | *All cases accuracy* | *Automatic process accuracy*[1] | *Manual process accuracy* | *Tax effect accuracy*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 75.3 | n/a | 75.3 | 96.5 |
| 2006-07 | 78.1 | n/a | 78.1 | 96.5 |
| 2007-08 | 80.5 | n/a | 80.5 | 97.6 |

*Percentage*

| *SA* | *All cases accuracy* | *Automatic process accuracy*[1] | *Manual process accuracy* | *Tax effect accuracy*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 81.5 | n/a | 81.5 | 97.0 |

[1] There is no information available for SA cases processed automatically because the assumption is that they process with near 100 per cent. accuracy.

[2] The self-assessment tax effect accuracy relate to those self-assessment taxpayers whose tax bill is accurate to within £1.

The main causes of tax effect errors is provided on page 20 of the National Audit Office publication "Accuracy in processing Income Tax", available at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/accuracy_in_processing_income.aspx

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the merits of collecting income tax from state pensions through the PAYE system. [316502]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No such assessment has been made.

The majority of pensioners have their state pensions appropriately taxed through the operation of Pay-As-You-Earn on their other sources of income.

## Public Finance

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his long-term projections based on principal projections made by the Office for National Statistics in the same terms as those set out in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term public finance report. [316369]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The 2009 Long-term public finance report sets out long-term spending projections, using most recent 2008-based population projections made by the Office for National Statistics. This can be found on the HMT website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr09_longtermfinances.htm

## Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if HM Revenue and Customs will publish its roadmap to show how component programmes contribute to the achievement of its strategic objectives, with reference to paragraph 3.6 of the National Audit Office's 2008 Report on HM Revenue and Customs Transformation Programme. [316115]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Business Plan for 2009-10 was published on April 2009, and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/business-plan-vision.pdf

The Business Plan sets out how the Department intends to deliver its corporate Vision and to achieve the six strategic objectives that underpin it. It also sets out details of HMRC's major change and transformation programmes and explains how these contribute to the delivery of both the strategic objectives and other legislative and policy commitments.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has carried out research to establish the reasons for the reduced demand for face-to-face interviews at HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centres; and if he will make a statement. [316250]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) analysis suggests that a range of factors are leading to a reduction in customers using the face-to-face channel. These include:

- increasing take-up of online filing services (around 75 per cent. of self assessment customers filed online this year); and
- increasing use of HMRC's website (with over 80 million hits in 2009-10 compared to around 44 million hits in 2006-07).

HMRC has supported this trend, for example by encouraging customers to renew their tax credits over the telephone and by pointing customers who are able to do so to use the telephone and online services as their first point of call for advice.

## Taxation

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* P45s and *(b)* P46s HM Revenue and Customs received from employers in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [316117]

(2) how many user errors occurred in filling out *(a)* P45s and *(b)* P46s during (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [316118]

(3) how many employment history enquiries relating to P46s were *(a)* sent to individuals and *(b)* received back by HM Revenue and Customs in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [316120]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

## Taxation: Self-assessment and PAYE

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were on *(a)* self-assessment and *(b)* Pay-As-You-Earn in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [312151]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is provided in the following table. Some individuals may be in both Pay as You Earn (PAYE) and self assessment.

*Estimated number of individuals (million)*

| *Tax year* | *Self assessment* | *PAYE* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 9.0 | 35.6 |
| 2006-07 | 9.1 | 36.0 |
| 2007-08 | 9.3 | 37.3 |
| 2008-09 | 9.3 | 37.7 |

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* Pay-As-You-Earn and *(b)* self-assessment cases remained open during (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; [312333]

(2) when the most recent audit of open P14 cases was undertaken; and what statistics were collected for the purposes of that audit; [313935]

(3) when the most recent audit of open PSN cases was undertaken; and what statistics were collected for the purposes of that audit. [313936]

**Mr. Timms:** The terms "open PSN case" and "open P14 case" are not used by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

PAYE open cases arise when HMRC is unable to match the pay and tax details submitted by their employer on form P14 to an individual's tax record or a match is made but the pay and tax do not reconcile and further work is needed to establish the correct tax position. This is a normal part of the PAYE process.

The most recent internal audit review of PAYE open cases took place in March 2009, and reviewed the accuracy of clearance of 2007-08 PAYE open cases. HMRC's internal audit function checked a sample of cases and found that the accuracy achieved in clearing open cases was 95 per cent.

HMRC do not use the term "open cases" in relation to self-assessment. Under self-assessment a case is cleared once the self-assessment tax return has been filed.

Information on the number of open PAYE cases is available at:

For 2005-06 and 2006-07 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 388W.

For 2007-08 and 2008-09 in HMRC's Annual Accounts:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

From 2009, the introduction of the new National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS) will automate matching and processing of data sufficient to reduce the number of cases needing clerical intervention (exception cases) to less than 4.5 million each tax year. HMRC aims to clear these cases during the same year in which they occur so backlogs should no longer accrue.

For the open cases existing when NPS went live HMRC have three pieces of work planned to reduce the existing open cases:

1. An Open Case Clearance Project in PAYE/SA Processing that deploys software to identify cases where an under or overpayment is due, or where the record is accurate and can be closed.

2. HMRC is working with an independent firm, on those open cases which are open because they do not appear to match to an existing record, to data match open cases with a wider range of data.

3. The Department will risk assess the remaining cases, prioritising those where repayments may be due, before starting a clerical review of the remaining cases in April 2010, which will continue until all backlogs have been worked.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of the policies and actions of the Government Equalities Office since it was established. [315297]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office operates at a strategic level across Government to promote policies which address discrimination. It is not possible to provide statistical information about the effects on Blaydon of the policies and actions of GEO since it was established.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether any *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerries have been provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in the Government Equalities' Office since its establishment. [307574]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office has not provided any mobile phones or Blackberry devices to its Ministers or Special Advisers. The Special Adviser to the Minister for Women and Equality is provided with a BlackBerry by the Cabinet Office as part of communication arrangements for the Minister's Private Office.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 33W, on Public Sector: procurement, whether a small firms impact assessment has been produced in relation to their new public procurement duties on contracting authorities; what the timetable is for the production of the non-legislative toolkit; and whether small firms will be consulted before its introduction. [315617]

**Maria Eagle:** A regulatory impact assessment has been produced on the creation of a single set of specific equality duties to underpin the new integrated public sector equality duty and to regulate procurement by some public authorities. This was published as part of the specific duties consultation document; Equality Bill: Making it work, Policy proposals for specific duties: A consultation.

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/
Specific%20Duties%20Consultation%20DocumentWEB.pdf

It is important to note that the specific duties fall on the contracting authority and not on the private sector, and also apply only to above EU threshold contracts and to the lead contractor.

The non-legislative Toolkit is being produced by the Office of Government Commerce. The Toolkit will update and build on OGC's existing guidance, 'Make Equality Count', to provide more detailed and accessible advice to procurers on when and how they can incorporate equality considerations in their public procurement activities in line with procurement law. The Toolkit is designed to be a 'living' tool, allowing for new content, for example, best practice case studies and any changes in relevant legislation and other material to be added in future to ensure that public procurers are provided with up to date advice and guidance. An initial draft is currently available for consultation until 12 March on the OGC website and small firms are welcome to contribute.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many job vacancies at the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission were filled through external recruitment agencies in the latest year for which figures are available. [315531]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Government Equalities Office has not filled any job vacancies using external recruitment agencies.

*(b)* The Equality and Human Rights Commission has filled four job vacancies using external recruitment agencies between 3 February 2009 and 3 February 2010.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission spent on external recruitment consultants in the latest year for which figures are available. [315532]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The GEO has spent £91,796 including VAT on recruitment consultants to run the public appointment of Commissioners for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (£62,333) and the Women's National Commission (£29,463).

*(b)* The Equality and Human Rights Commission has spent a total of £111,749.19 inclusive of VAT on external recruitment consultants between 3 February 2009 and 3 February 2010.

## Disabled: Candidates

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government has taken to encourage more disabled people to *(a)* apply for and *(b)* present themselves as candidates for election to public office. [309445]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government are committed to increasing diversity of representation in political life at both national and local level and firmly believe that to achieve a genuinely fair and just society their political decision makers need to reflect the population.

The Equality Bill contains new provisions allowing political parties to reserve places on electoral shortlists for individuals including disabled people. The Bill also allows a wide range of voluntary activities by parties to reduce inequalities in representation.

These include provisions enabling political parties to; set up separate forums dedicated to a specific protected characteristic; reserve seats for people with a protected characteristics on any forum, including electoral shortlist, representative groups, panels, committees etc; and adopt whatever forms of mentoring or shadowing parties themselves choose.

In direct response to a recommendation of the Speaker's conference, the Government have tabled their own amendment to the Equality Bill to require registered political parties to report on the diversity data to be collected in a systematic way at a national level for the first time.

This amendment could ultimately result in greater diversity in political parties. It may also increase participation in elections and in public office of those from under-represented groups.

## Hotels

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many separate bookings at hotels graded at five star or above were made through the Expotel booking service by *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what cost such bookings were made. [315547]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The GEO did not make any bookings through Expotel for stays at five star hotels or above.

*(b)* The Equality and Human Rights Commission state that they booked a total of 16 nights' accommodation at five star hotels through the Expotel booking services in the 2008-09 financial year at a total cost of £2,098.

## Human Trafficking: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what mechanisms are in place to identify people in Gloucestershire who have been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. [315883]

**Maria Eagle:** As part of our implementation of the Council of Europe Convention, we have enhanced our victim care arrangements by creating a national referral mechanism (NRM) to improve identification and protection of trafficking victims. The NRM is a multi-agency framework that allows for the systematic identification of victims, and provision of support. Central to the NRM process are the competent authorities based within UK Borders Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre which are the bodies that decide on whether a referred person is a victim of human trafficking. All forces including Gloucestershire Constabulary have been made aware of the process and the necessary contact details of the decision making bodies.

## Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she intends to reply to the letter to her of 26 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms A Sidwell. [316879]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** A response to the letter dated 26 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton was sent out on 3 December 2009.

## Newspaper Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments have been made by *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each year since their inception. [315611]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Government Equalities Office's (GEO) contract with its press cuttings agency Precise includes licensing from the Newspaper Licensing Agency and the Copyright Licensing Agency.

*(b)* The Equality and Human Rights Commission has made a total of two payments to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each year since its establishment in 2007.

£684.24 paid 27 March 2008 (£582.33 plus £101.91 VAT);

£529.62 paid 26 March 2009 (£460.54 plus £69.08 VAT)

### Slough

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of the Government Equalities Office since it was established. [311979]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office operates at a strategic level across Government to promote policies which address discrimination. It is not possible to provide statistical information about the effects on Streatham of the policies and actions of GEO since it was established.

### Streatham

**Keith Hill:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on Streatham constituency of changes to the Government Equalities Office's policies since its establishment. [313396]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office operates at a strategic level across Government to promote policies which address discrimination. It is not possible to provide statistical information about the effects on Streatham of the policies and actions of GEO since it was established.

### Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of the Government Equalities Office since it was established. [315635]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office operates at a strategic level across Government to promote policies which address discrimination. It is not possible to provide statistical information about the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of GEO since it was established.

### Travelling People: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether Strategic Funding Programme funding being provided by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission to *(a)* Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project, *(b)* Friends, Families and Travellers and *(c)* Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange in 2009-10 may be used to assist travellers in relation to funding planning applications, planning policy or planning appeals. [309527]

**Maria Eagle:** I am informed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission that the Strategic Funding Programme funding being provided in 2009-10 to: Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project; Friends, Families and Travellers; and Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange, may not be used to assist in planning applications, planning policy or planning appeals.

To use this funding in such a way would break the grant conditions and result in actions leading to suspension or termination of the grant funding agreement and recovery of the grant.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Blaydon

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Blaydon constituency, the effects on Blaydon of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315294]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty since 2000. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Blaydon constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

*Key achievements*

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

The UK is on track to cut emissions by nearly twice our Kyoto target (22 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2008-12 compared to the target of 12.5 per cent. set out under the Kyoto agreement).

The Climate Change Act in 2008 set a target of at least 80 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. Our first three carbon budgets legally bind the UK to a cut in greenhouse gases of 34 per cent. by 2018-22 against a 1990 baseline. In 2009, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan set out the long-term vision for climate change and energy and showing how we will meet the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act.

In the same year, my Department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over six million households with insulation measures with almost three million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through 'clean energy cashback' schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

*Warm Front scheme: Blaydon constituency*

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2000 the scheme has assisted 2092 households in the Blaydon constituency.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on font licensing. [315506]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department uses the range of fonts provided under a desktop IT service contract, and has spent nothing on additional font licensing.

### Electricity Generation

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity wind farms have supplied to the National Grid in each of the last four weeks for which information is available. [312212]

**Mr. Kidney:** Electricity supplied by wind farms in each of the last four weeks is given in the following table. The data are made available by National Grid and only refer to wind which is operationally metered i.e. around half of the onshore wind farms and none of the offshore wind farms.

*Electricity supplied by wind during the last four weeks*

| *Week commencing* | *Operationally metered wind generation (MWh)* |
|---|---|
| 1 January 2010 | 51,535 |
| 8 January 2010 | 90,839 |
| 15 January 2010 | 114,923 |
| 22 January 2010 | 61,164 |

A more complete coverage of wind generation, on a monthly basis, and with a two-month lag, can be found on DECC's Energy Statistics website, in table ET5.3.

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the final electricity supply licence conditions for the purpose of introducing the feed-in tariff scheme. [314345]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government's response to the summer 2009 consultation was published on Monday 1 February and is available from the DECC website at

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Copies of the electricity supply licence conditions were placed in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office on Wednesday 3 February.

### Fuel Poverty: Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the level of fuel poverty in Hemsworth. [316615]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty among vulnerable households which includes pensioners. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

> Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency through schemes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Community Energy Saving programme and the Decent Homes Standard.
>
> Between 2005 and the end of January 2010 Warm Front delivered energy efficiency measures to 2702 households in Hemsworth;
>
> Putting in place and continuously looking to improve a regulatory framework that promotes competition as the main driver to ensure downward pressure on prices for consumers, and to improve licence conditions and strengthen Ofgem's powers through the Energy Bill; and
>
> Raising real incomes, including through winter fuel payments and cold weather payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through benefit entitlement checks under the Warm Front scheme. Over 622 such checks have been undertaken in Hemsworth by Warm Front between 2005 and the end of November 2009, identifying an average weekly increase in income of £25.09 for those entitled to additional benefits.

We have also introduced legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs. We have said that we are minded to focus the majority of the additional resources on older pensioner households on the lowest incomes as these households tend to have a high incidence of fuel poverty—over 50 per cent. of fuel poor households have a person over 60 living in them; their circumstances are relatively stable; and they are at the greatest risk of excess winter deaths.

Through our fuel poverty review we will continue to build and strengthen the evidence base on fuel poverty and explore better ways of targeting help at the most vulnerable fuel poor households.

### Fuel Poverty: Scotland

**[illegible]nie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and [illegible]mate Change what his latest estimate is of the number of households in fuel poverty in each constituency in Scotland. [316770]

**Mr. Kidney:** The matters raised in this question concern policy devolved to the Scottish Parliament and it is therefore the responsibility of Scottish Ministers.

### Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316306]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessors have implemented a large number of policies to address energy security, emissions reductions, low carbon economic growth and fuel poverty since 2000. Some of the key achievements are set out as follows, along with information on the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in Hemsworth constituency. It would be disproportionately costly to provide statistical information on all the impact of all the policies to the level of detail requested, but statistical information covering energy and climate change is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/statistics.aspx

*Key achievements*

Total UK greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by about 12 per cent. compared with 1997.

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In the same year, my department published National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure which will lead to faster and fairer planning decisions and a diverse low carbon energy mix. An ambitious new framework for clean coal will also drive development of carbon capture and storage.

The UK's energy market is the most competitive in the EU and has attracted over £97 billion of investment from 1997 to 2008 (at 2005 prices). The UK also has the greatest installed capacity of offshore wind in the world.

Turning to household measures, since 2002, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and its predecessors have helped over six million households with insulation measures with almost three million of these in a priority group of vulnerable households.

Government will be providing more financial assistance to help people generate their own heat and electricity in low carbon ways, where appropriate, through "clean energy cashback" schemes:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be in place from April 2010. Payment for low carbon electricity produced by small-scale generators (including households), will be provided through the electricity supply companies to encourage the uptake of low carbon and renewable electricity generating technologies by households, businesses and communities.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), scheduled for launch in April 2011, will provide households, communities and businesses with payment for getting their heat from renewable sources. The detailed design of the RHI is currently out for consultation.

*Warm Front scheme: Hemsworth constituency*

DECC's Warm Front scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Since 2005 the scheme has assisted 2694 households in the Hemsworth constituency.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had on taking into account the longer term de-carbonisation of grid energy in the method used to calculate the carbon compliance rating of a dwelling; and if he will make a statement. [313341]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* Projections about grid decarbonisation are already taken into account in the carbon emission factors that are used to determine carbon compliance. The factor is currently calculated by projecting five years into the future, based on an average value of carbon intensity. Officials from DECC and CLG are working closely with the zero carbon hub's working group that has been set up to consider issues such as compliance and its assessment, as we move to zero carbon homes in 2016. The carbon intensity of grid energy, electricity, gas and the other fuels, is likely to be a factor in their deliberations. The workgroup is expected to make its recommendations later this year.

### Mining: Pensions

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much employees paid in contributions to the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme between 1987 and 1994. [316315]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Mineworkers' Pension Scheme became a closed scheme in 1994. The scheme, rather than this Department, is the custodian of information relating to employee members' contributions prior to that time. I would suggest that my hon. Friend direct his inquiry to:

The Secretary
Mineworkers' Pension Scheme
Hussar Court
Hillsborough Barracks
Sheffield
S6 2GZ.

### Renewable Energy

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for renewable energy generation *(a)* at and *(b)* in the vicinity of the site of Dungeness nuclear power station. [317016]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department has not made any assessment of the potential for renewable energy generation at, or in the vicinity of, the site of the Dungeness nuclear power station. It is for the market to bring forward applications for potential sites for renewable energy projects. These are then considered by the relevant planning authority on a case-by-case basis.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 523W, on aviation, how many of the domestic flights which travelled 300 miles or less in each of the last three years were lifeline flights. [316093]

**Paul Clark:** The following table shows the number of the domestic flights that departed from a UK reporting airport and which travelled 300 miles or less, and of these the number of lifeline flights, in each of the last three years.

| | *Number of flight departures* | *Number of lifeline flight departures* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 291,965 | 6,352 |
| 2007 | 287,939 | 6,961 |
| 2008 | 275,926 | 7,138 |

*Notes:*
1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Total domestic flight departures are based on data from 58 reporting UK airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Island airports. Lifeline flights are based on flight information from 10 of these UK airports which report to the CAA.
3. Lifeline flights are those routes with public service obligations (PSOs) imposed by the UK published by the Civil Aviation Authority in 'CAP 775: Air Services at UK Regional Airports—An Update on Developments'.

*Source:*
Based on data supplied to DFT by the Civil Aviation Authority

## Aviation: Baggage

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has had discussions with its international counterparts on the weight of bags in transit through UK airports. [316113]

**Paul Clark:** Primary responsibility for occupational safety matters rests with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Bag weight is only one factor in the risks associated with manual handling and HSE works with European counterparts through the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work to mitigate these risks. In 2007, Labour Inspectorates in the EU launched an inspection and communication campaign to prevent lower back disorders, targeting the transport and healthcare sectors.

HSE also collaborates on reducing manual handling risk with the International Air Transport Association and other international aviation health and safety groups such as the International Aviation Handlers Association and the US based ARTEX group.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what response he has made to the Health and Safety Executive's recommendation of a 23kg maximum weight for an item of checked baggage. [316114]

**Paul Clark:** The recommendation for a 23 kilo bag weight limit is from International Air Transport Association (IATA) and is supported by HSE as one aspect of industry risk reduction measures. Weight is only one factor in manual handling risk and HSE has worked with the industry and IATA to introduce, first, a recommended 32 kilo bag weight limit, then, in 2009, a recommended 23 kilo limit.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department or Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of baggage handlers at Heathrow Airport on the effects of their jobs on their health. [316111]

**Paul Clark:** I met representatives of Unite the Union on 21 July last year to discuss their 'Lighten Up' campaign about the effects of aircraft baggage weights on the health of their members. This followed a meeting between the Secretary of State for Transport and Unite on 27 April 2009 at which the health and safety of baggage handlers was discussed. In addition, I addressed the Unite sectoral conference on aviation on this and other matters on 23 November 2009.

## Crossrail: Recruitment

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will ensure that notification of job vacancies arising from the Crossrail scheme is made through Jobcentre Plus before such vacancies are advertised elsewhere. [316833]

**Mr. Khan:** Crossrail Ltd. has established a partnership with Jobcentre Plus to maximise the number of local people employed on the Crossrail scheme. Under these arrangements, Crossrail contractors' vacancies will be advertised through Jobcentre Plus 48 hours before the contractor advertises elsewhere. These arrangements are set out in a draft Memorandum of Understanding between Jobcentre Plus and Crossrail which will shortly be finalised.

Vacancies for posts within Crossrail Ltd. itself are not advertised through Jobcentre Plus; the majority of these positions require particularly specific role/industry experience or specialist technical skills. Vacancies in Crossrail Ltd. are therefore advertised on the Crossrail website at:

www.crossrail.co.uk/company/careers-and-training/vacancies

## Departmental Art Works

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 994W, on departmental public expenditure, on what items of art *(a)* his Department's London headquarters spent £504,606, *(b)* the Marine Accident Investigation Branch spent £103, *(c)* the Highways Agency spent £1,799,366 and *(d)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency spent £164,179. [316505]

**Chris Mole:** As advised previously the Department for Transport spent £1,162 on art in 2008-09; there was no other expenditure on art within that period.

## Freedom of Information

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 342-43W, on departmental correspondence, for what reasons he did not include within his Department's disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 of the full set of emails from 19 September 2007 to 12 November 2007 between his Department and BAA regarding the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow, an email received on 19 September 2007 at 10:17 (sender/receiver redacted) with the subject line: fwd:Re: PSDH:R3 2020. [316733]

**Paul Clark:** A copy of the e-mail in question was disclosed to the hon. Member as part of the two bundles of correspondence supplied under cover of my letter of 19 November. The first bundle covered the period between

19 September and 12 November 2007 and the second the period from then to the date of the Heathrow decisions in January 2009. The e-mail in question was not included in the first bundle only because, in the exercise to compile a record of the Heathrow papers, it had been filed under the date of a forwarding e-mail falling within the latter period.

## M1

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fatalities there were on the M1 in *(a)* sections with side run-off protection and *(b)* sections without side run-off protection in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [316447]

**Chris Mole:** The following table shows validated figures for all fatalities for the M1 in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

| *M1* | *1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007* | *1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008* | *1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* With side run-off protection | 4 | 18 | 5 |
| *(b)* Without side run-off protection | 7 | 6 | 12 |

[1] Validated data are only available up to 31 December 2008

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the length of the M1 has side run-off protection; and what estimates he has made of the cost of installing such protection for the entire length of the M1. [316448]

**Chris Mole:** Approximately 45 per cent. of the M1 has side run-off protection.

To date there has been no estimate made of the cost of installing side run-off protection on the entire length of the M1. Such systems are put in place on sections of road that satisfy specific criteria as set out in Highways Agency standards. The need for such vehicle restraints is under constant review as part of operational requirements.

## Railways: Fares

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will prescribe times between which train operating companies may charge peak fares for rail tickets. [316641]

**Chris Mole:** With the exception of the off-peak return, which, where regulated, must, as a minimum, be available during times defined in the franchise agreement, there are no restrictions in the defining of the peak hours in which peak tickets are required for travel.

The profile of passenger fares that constitutes the peak varies between franchise areas.

Off-peak day fares (old cheap day returns) are unregulated and train operators have the discretion to set the hours of their validity.

## Rescue Services: Hope Cove

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what maritime risks the capability review team took into account in deciding that the Hope Cove lifeboat should be permanently decommissioned. [316766]

**Paul Clark:** The maritime risks considered by the review team cover the broad categories of incidents at sea, on the beach, cliff, coastal path and in a tidal river. No decisions have been taken, or will be taken, about the future of the general purpose boat based at Hope Cove until after the current consultation exercise about the search and rescue provision in the southern part of the South West Peninsula.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport who was consulted on *(a)* the drafting of clause 42 of the Hope Cove lifeboat consultation document and *(b)* the future of the Hope Cove lifeboat; and how many visits to the Hope Cove consultation website have been recorded since its creation. [316767]

**Paul Clark:** There is no clause 42 within the consultation document. However paragraph 4.2 and its view on the future of the Hope Cove general purpose boat was developed by the collective local, regional and national HM Coastguard management with many years experience of assessing and providing Search and Rescue services.

The latest statistics available to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency show that as at 8 February 2010 the consultation web page had been viewed 172 times.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of running the Hope Cove lifeboat since 1992. [316768]

**Paul Clark:** Officials at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have been asked to compile the requested data. The process involves reconciling a number of different data sources to provide the information requested in a helpful form. As soon as that information is available it will be placed in the Libraries of the House. It should be noted that, as per best practice, the MCA keeps financial records only for the previous six financial years so therefore will not be able to provide information prior to financial year 2004-05.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Hope Cove lifeboat crew was consulted on its new equipment before that equipment was issued. [316769]

**Paul Clark:** In line with standard Maritime and Coastguard Agency procedures, the Hope Cove General Purpose Boat Crew members were not consulted prior to their personal protective equipment being replaced.

To reflect the operating restrictions placed on the boat, helmets were changed to offer additional head protection in a "man overboard" situation and lifejackets were changed to those of an approved standard suitable for use on general purpose boats.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Marine and Coastguard Agency would continue to task the Hope Cove lifeboat in circumstances in which it were privately run; and if he will take steps to ensure that the Hope Cove lifeboat is back in service by 1 March 2010. [316773]

**Paul Clark:** From the matrix of assets that are fit for purpose and available, Her Majesty's Coastguard will task the most appropriate declared search and rescue resource to deal with the given circumstances of a maritime incident. It is the view of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that the resources available for search and rescue in the southern part of the South West Peninsula are sufficient to address the known maritime risks for that location, without the need for an additional boat at Hope Cove, whether or not that they were privately run. However, this is the subject of a consultation exercise at this time and no decisions about the future of the general purpose boat at Hope Cove will be taken until the consultation period is complete.

In the interim, the existing Coastguard General Purpose boat based at Hope Cove, which is not a primary search and rescue asset, will be available within the terms of its restricted operation, imposed to protect its crew, from the beginning of April.

### Roads: Finance

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which projects have been allocated funding from the £6 billion fund for national strategic roads announced in July 2008; how much each has been allocated *(a)* before the start of financial year 2009-10 and *(b)* in respect of financial year (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12, (iv) 2012-13, (v) 2013-14 and (vi) 2014-15; which of them are planned to start before the end of financial year 2009-10; and how much funding each such project has been allocated beyond financial year 2014-15. [316573]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]*: The Command Paper 'Roads—Delivering Choice and Reliability', published in July 2008, announced that up to £6 billion had been made available to fund improvements to national strategic roads in England. The policy statement 'Britain's Transport Infrastructure—Motorway and Major Trunk Roads', published in January 2009, announced how the proposed investment was to be targeted.

Under current project governance arrangements, the Department makes an investment commitment only once a scheme is ready to commence construction. The preceding stages of scheme development are funded by the incremental release of phase budgets without making any commitment to fund the scheme beyond the next phase.

For this reason, the following analysis is confined to those schemes that have already secured investment commitment and have entered the construction phase.

| | | Years relating to £6 billion funding assumption | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *(a) Actual (£ million)* | *(b) 2009-10 and subsequent years forecast funding allocation at 31 December 2009 (£ million)* | | | | | |
| *Projects allocated funding from £6 billion funding assumption* | *Prior years* | *2008-09* | *(i) 2009-10* | *(ii) 2010-11* | *(iii) 2011-12* | *(iv) 2012-13* | *(v) 2013-14* | *(vi) 2014-15* |
| *Projects under construction (pre January 2009 start of works):* | | | | | | | | |
| M1 J25-28 | 43.1 | 105.3 | 136.2 | 19.2 | — | — | — | — |
| A5117Deeside Park | 37.2 | 20.5 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| A1 Bramham to Wetherby | 40.2 | 23.3 | 6.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| M40 J15 Longbridge | 10.7 | 23.5 | 32.1 | 3.9 | — | — | — | — |
| *Projects under construction (post January 2009 start of works):* | | | | | | | | |
| A1 Dishforth to Leeming | 36.7 | 32.5 | 70.0 | 91.2 | 76.7 | — | — | — |
| M25 J16-23 (Section 1) | 17.2 | 5.2 | 69.9 | 103.9 | 190.5 | 108.6 | — | — |
| M25 J27-30 (Section 4) | 15.5 | 3.8 | 32.2 | 115.0 | 183.3 | 46.5 | — | — |
| M1 J10-13 | 29.2 | 7.7 | 21.3 | 122.1 | 146.5 | 66.9 | — | — |
| A46 Newark (part funding) | — | — | 73.0 | 63.5 | 16.1 | 9.8 | — | — |

The A46 Newark to Widmerpool scheme is a regional project that is part-funded by the national roads programme as part of accelerated expenditure under the fiscal stimulus initiative announced in July 2009. The budget allocation identified in the table above relates only to the contribution to scheme costs from the national budget.

The Birmingham Box Phase 1 and Phase 2 schemes were both identified in the January 2009 policy statement but are to be funded from the HA Network Operations budget.

The A14 Traffic Technology scheme was also identified in the January 2009 policy statement but is to be funded from the Department for Transport Technology Innovation Fund.

There is one further investment commitment planned before the end of financial year 2009-10; however, this remains subject to approval from HM Treasury. The replacement of the Catthorpe Viaduct forms part of the M1 Junction 19 Improvement scheme. An initial investment commitment of up to £25 million is planned with costs apportioned equally between 2010-11 and 2011-12. Any further investment commitment will only be made once the statutory process has been completed for the scheme as a whole.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps have been taken since 4 February 2009 to ensure that local authorities have adequate supplies of road salt. [316822]

**Mr. Khan:** Winter service, including provisioning adequate salt stocks, is a matter for each individual local highway authority. Salt is available on open markets from a range of sources.

Valuable reviews were conducted last year by the Transport Select Committee "(The Effects of Adverse Weather Conditions on Transport, HC328), the Local Government Association (Weathering the Storm), the UK Roads Liaison Group "(Lessons from the Severe Weather February 2009)" and the Greater London Authority "(Slipping Up?)". I explained to the House on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 122WS the action the Government have taken to implement the recommendations in the UK Roads Liaison Group's report.

The salt cell, which has been established to advise salt-suppliers which areas of the nation's road network have the greatest need for salt, has operated from 5 February 2009 to 12 March 2009, and from 6 January 2010 to the present.

### Roads: Standards

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will bring forward proposals to increase the powers of enforcement available to local authorities to ensure that roads and amenity spaces are brought up to an appropriate standard for adoption; [316274]

(2) by what mechanisms local authorities ensure that roads and amenity spaces are brought up to an appropriate standard for adoption. [316275]

**Mr. Khan:** Under the Highways Act 1980, local highway authorities may adopt streets that they are not currently responsible for maintaining. It is for individual authorities to decide whether they wish to adopt particular streets, taking account of local priorities, but a street may be adopted only if the majority of owners in that street agree. The Act also provides powers, under the private street works code, for a highway authority to bring a street up to the standard required for adoption and to recover the costs from frontagers.

If a developer intends that a street on a new development should become part of the public highway network, it should either provide a deposit or bond to cover the cost of ensuring the street meets the standard for adoption, or enter into an adoption agreement with the local highway authority. Enquiries made by purchasers' solicitors should reveal what arrangements are being made by the developer in relation to adoption of the street.

We have not received representations from local authorities that these long-standing statutory arrangements are insufficient, so we have no current proposals for changes.

### Snow and Ice

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313592]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the costs to it arising from the severe weather conditions in the period between 4 January and 18 January 2010.

During this period, the Department took prompt action to respond to the exceptional circumstances experienced by our transport systems. In particular, the Department activated the Salt Cell on 6 January to provide advice on priorities for deliveries.

All costs incurred as a result of activating the Salt Cell will be met from within the Department's existing resources.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent acquiring unsold stock for affordable housing in each month since February 2009; and how many such properties have been purchased. [316181]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers he was given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 220W and on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1115W.

Information on expenditure on acquisitions for 2009-10 will be available after the end of the financial year.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications were received for the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* First Time Buyer's Initiative and *(e)* Social HomeBuy schemes in each region in each year since 2005. [316253]

**John Healey:** The following table shows the number of applications received for Open Market HomeBuy for 2006-07 to 2008-09. Information prior to 2006-07 is not held centrally.

| *Region* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| London | 5,024 | 11,364 | 10,820 |
| South East | 9,818 | 13,307 | 21,113 |
| East | 2,103 | 4,921 | 11,701 |
| South West | 3,724 | 7,862 | 8,866 |
| East Midlands | 535 | 679 | 1,691 |
| West Midlands | 1,007 | 776 | 1,259 |
| North West | 754 | 742 | 1,310 |
| North East | 54 | 156 | 231 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 413 | 793 | 1,447 |
| Total | 23,432 | 40,600 | 58,438 |

Information on applications for the First Time Buyers Initiative is only held at a national level. The following table shows the number of applications for 2006-07 to 2008-09, there were no applications received before then.

| | Applications |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 13,992 |
| 2007-08 | 18,282 |
| 2008-09 | 21,281 |

Information on applications for HomeBuy Direct, New Build HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy is not held centrally. Applications are processed by HomeBuy Agents (appointed housing associations).

## Audit Commission

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, how much the Audit Commission has spent on Roleplay UK in the last 36 months; and on what dates. [315625]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 9 February 2010:*

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent £166,179 in the last 36 months with Roleplay UK. A breakdown showing when these payments were made is shown in the table attached.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

*2007*

| *Invoice date* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 6 February 2007 | 1,186.87 |
| 7 February 2007 | 564.00 |
| 12 February 2007 | 744.72 |
| 15 February 2007 | 1,089.94 |
| 15 February 2007 | 554.13 |
| 2 March 2007 | 1,233.16 |
| 8 March 2007 | 1,103.91 |
| 8 March 2007 | 1,202.03 |
| 15 March 2007 | 1,318.47 |
| 26 March 2007 | 439.22 |
| 28 March 2007 | 697.66 |
| 28 March 2007 | 962.92 |
| 28 March 2007 | 640.96 |
| 28 March 2007 | 186.83 |
| 28 March 2007 | 755.47 |
| 4 April 2007 | 24.79 |
| 11 April 2007 | 242.29 |
| 11 April 2007 | 1,138.46 |
| 13 April 2007 | 564.71 |
| 13 April 2007 | 726.39 |
| 30 April 2007 | 969.61 |
| 30 April 2007 | 2,296.66 |
| 4 May 2007 | 574.34 |
| 4 May 2007 | 1,115.94 |
| 9 May 2007 | 1,894.81 |
| 18 May 2007 | 488.57 |
| 22 May 2007 | 1,420.69 |
| 1 June 2007 | 758.[illegible] |
| 1 June 2007 | 723.57 |
| 1 June 2007 | 897.82 |
| 25 June 2007 | 2,367.63 |
| 27 June 2007 | 496.56 |
| 3 July 2007 | 1,200.03 |
| 13 July 2007 | 724.62 |
| 13 July 2007 | 724.62 |
| 13 July 2007 | 869.62 |
| 23 July 2007 | 1,116.13 |
| 27 July 2007 | 1,316.35 |
| 6 September 2007 | 1,159.61 |
| 18 September 2007 | 1,405.77 |
| 24 September 2007 | 1,157.73 |
| 26 September 2007 | 825.32 |
| 26 September 2007 | 752.94 |
| 28 September 2007 | 2,198.82 |
| 28 September 2007 | 691.84 |
| 31 July 2007 | 567.06 |
| 8 October 2007 | 691.84 |
| 12 October 2007 | 1,185.69 |
| 12 October 2007 | 3,454.39 |
| 12 October 2007 | 2,361.23 |
| 19 October 2007 | 1,889.64 |
| 26 October 2007 | 747.07 |
| 26 October 2007 | 1,652.64 |
| 26 October 2007 | 3,859.02 |
| 26 October 2007 | 288.12 |
| 5 November 2007 | 1,806.37 |
| 12 November 2007 | 2,396.94 |
| 12 November 2007 | 1,894.57 |
| 22 November 2007 | 2,765.25 |
| 29 November 2007 | 2,430.02 |
| 29 November 2007 | 1,822.35 |
| 6 December 2007 | 1,969.30 |
| 18 December 2007 | 1,286.63 |
| Total | 76,593.48 |

*2008*

| *Invoice date* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 2 January 2008 | 753.88 |
| 2 January 2008 | 1,271.00 |
| 2 January 2008 | 1,267.72 |
| 10 January 2008 | 1,343.85 |
| 14 January 2008 | 724.62 |
| 4 February2008 | 1,322.11 |
| 6 February 2008 | 763.75 |
| 25 February 2008 | 726.03 |
| 25 February 2008 | 1,233.99 |
| 25 February 2008 | 2,687.23 |
| 25 February 2008 | 300.81 |
| 28 February 2008 | 1,291.57 |
| 3 March 2008 | 1,329.28 |
| 5 March 2008 | 1,387.68 |
| 13 March 2008 | 3,413.50 |
| 13 March 2008 | 660.47 |
| 14 March 2008 | 1,381.81 |
| 17 March 2008 | 300.81 |
| 25 March 2008 | 1,132.00 |
| 27 March 2008 | 607.24 |
| 30 March 2008 | 763.75 |
| 14 April 2008 | 1,000.75 |
| 16 April 2008 | 720.04 |
| 24 April 2008 | 2,287.02 |

*2008*

| *Invoice date* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 24 April 2008 | 2,599.10 |
| 24 April 2008 | 2,091.97 |
| 29 April 2008 | 1,821.02 |
| 1 May 2008 | 2,167.99 |
| 8 May 2008 | 1,198.15 |
| 16 May 2008 | 2,424.61 |
| 21 May 2008 | 1,312.01 |
| 28 May 2008 | 898.88 |
| 6 June 2008 | 708.76 |
| 8 July 2008 | 1,257.13 |
| 23 July 2008 | 2,637.41 |
| 31 July 2008 | 300.81 |
| 31 July 2008 | 662.47 |
| 12 August 2008 | 300.81 |
| 12 August 2008 | 1,794.11 |
| 26 August 2008 | 1,956.56 |
| 2 September 2008 | 1,132.23 |
| 19 September 2008 | 725.68 |
| 7 October 2008 | 978.66 |
| 14 October 2008 | 1,727.25 |
| 17 October 2008 | 285.88 |
| 21 October 2008 | 579.28 |
| 21 October 2008 | 2535.3 |
| 20 November 2008 | 3,210.57 |
| 25 November 2008 | 755.06 |
| 25 November 2008 | 1,424.58 |
| 11 December 2008 | 552.92 |
| 23 December 2008 | 676.89 |
| Total | 67,387.00 |

*2009*

| *Invoice date* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 13 January 2009 | 673.10 |
| 26 January 2009 | 1,357.23 |
| 26 January 2009 | 678.62 |
| 11 February 2009 | 1,352.40 |
| 11 February 2009 | 830.07 |
| 13 February 2009 | 656.65 |
| 23 February 2009 | 410.23 |
| 27 March 2009 | 1,995.14 |
| 6 May 2009 | 278.53 |
| 11 May 2009 | 323.38 |
| 14 May 2009 | 1,246.60 |
| 4 June 2009 | 275.31 |
| 8 June 2009 | 3,100.40 |
| 29 June 2009 | 3,133.06 |
| 9 July 2009 | 222.30 |
| 10 July 2009 | 222.30 |
| 17 July 2009 | 643.54 |
| 30 July 2009 | 683.79 |
| 30 July 2009 | 683.79 |
| 27 August 2009 | 442.41 |
| 28 August 2009 | 314.64 |
| 28 September 2009 | 623.30 |
| 20 November 2009 | 225.40 |
| Total | 20,372.20 |

*2010*

| *Invoice date* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 7 January 2010 | 1495.58 |
| 15 January 2010 | 330.42 |
| Total | 1,826.00 |

## Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Cleethorpes constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [315243]

**Barbara Follett:** The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Communities and Local Government statistical publications can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

This includes time series data across the Department's remit at various geographic levels.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

This includes evaluations of key policies.

Over the last year, Communities and Local Government has:

Played a critical role responding to the recession ensuring people, business and communities receive the practical help they need, including: helping people avoid repossession; Real Help Now; supporting the construction industry, critical regeneration projects, jobs through Future Jobs Fund; and businesses with the business rates deferral scheme.

Set in place a platform for greater local devolution for more effective decision making through Local Area Agreements (LAAs)—including slashing central performance standards from over 1,200 to fewer than 200.

Continued building on this through Total Place pilots, leading innovation across public services—cutting out waste, overlap and duplication, meaning more and better quality services at less cost to the taxpayer.

Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set out in the Planning Act 2008—which will make the major Infrastructure Planning decisions for the country, delivering a faster, fairer and more transparent planning regime.

Announced the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to deliver an additional 20,000 units of affordable housing, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction industry over this year and next, including 1,300 new apprenticeship schemes.

During the period since 1997, the Department's achievements include:

Working with local housing authorities to reduce the number of people accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by 71 per cent. since the peak in 2003—the lowest level since the late seventies—through greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness.

Launching the Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities which set out a new stage of public sector reform, significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

Helping reduce accidental fire-related deaths—the lowest level since 1959.

Reducing by 1.2 million the number of non decent social homes.

Investing through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £1.87 billion for England's 88 most deprived local authorities—leading to real positive change.

### Community Development: Greater London

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of each *(a)* funding stream and *(b)* grant allocated by his Department which is ring-fenced to meet targets on tackling deprivation was provided with reference to multiple indicators to (i) Roehampton ward, (ii) each local authority area in London and (iii) each lower layer super output area in London in each year since 2000. [316734]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** During this period ring-fenced funding streams have not been allocated to tackle deprivation.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was provided to each local authority in London in respect of each of its *(a)* lower layer super output areas and *(b)* wards under the (i) Working Neighbourhoods Fund, (ii) Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, (iii) Deprived Area Fund, (iv) Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, (v) New Deal for Communities, (vi) Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, (vii) New Communities Fund, (viii) European Regional Development Fund, (xiv) Inspiring Communities Grant, (x) Connecting Communities, (xi) Single Regeneration Budget and (xii) Land and Property Programme in each year since 2000. [316736]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information is not available for each ward or each lower layer super output area (LSOA). Many of the funding methods follow closely the principles of devolution and provide eligible local authorities with the authority, freedom and flexibility to best determine the local needs and options and use the funding in creative ways to support local priorities.

I have placed in the Library of the House tables which provide information on the London authorities under each programme.

### Council Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes from local authority housing stock were disposed of in each year since 1997; [316741]

(2) what the net change in the number of homes in local authority housing stock was in each year since 1997. [316742]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The changes in local authority stock are given in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Change in stock over previous year* |
|---|---:|
| 1997-98 | -74,743 |
| 1998-99 | -122,953 |
| 1999-2000 | -132,866 |
| 2000-01 | -169,147 |
| 2001-02 | -204,763 |
| 2002-03 | -112,812 |
| 2003-04 | -245,283 |
| 2004-05 | -121,342 |
| 2005-06 | -170,192 |
| 2006-07 | -88,755 |
| 2007-08 | -147,605 |
| 2008-09 | -72,978 |
| 2009-10 | -43,725 |

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any written instructions have been provided to the Accounting Officer for his Department and its predecessors in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315316]

**Barbara Follett:** The accounting officer for the Department for Communities and Local Government has not obtained a ministerial direction since the Department was established in May 2006. I am not aware that any ministerial directions were issued to accounting officers of CLG's predecessor Departments in respect of the Department's current responsibilities since May 1997.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost of *(a)* on and *(b)* off-line electronic consultation by his Department; whether he has plans to increase his Department's use of new media technologies to undertake consultations; and if he will make a statement. [315089]

**Barbara Follett:** All the Department's consultations are available online, with paper and Braille copies made available upon request. To date, no assessment of the overall costs of electronic consultations has taken place. The Department considers a range of media channels when engaging with people on a case by case basis and will continue to utilise new media channels to consult where appropriate.

### Fire Services

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the availability of alternative technologies and products to perform an equivalent function to regional fire and rescue control centres. [316586]

**Mr. Malik:** We are committed to delivering the FiReControl project. Our prime contractor is EADS who are contracted to deliver the IT solution, following a competitive procurement.

## Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316788]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has spent the following amounts with the Government Car and Dispatch Agency since 2006. Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,001,836 |
| 2007-08 | 834,748 |
| 2008-09 | 862,853 |
| 2009—January 2010 | 621,411 |

This figure could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost but the costs to the Department of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statements and are available in the Libraries of the House.

## Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding streams are administered by the Government Offices for the Regions. [316774]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government Offices for the Regions have specific responsibility for an administration running cost budget and a capital budget.

Programme budgets administered by the Government Offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. The Departments delegate authority to the regional directors to spend against their programmes, though all expenditure incurred is recorded in the accounts of the Department concerned.

There are currently 12 existing Sponsor Departments to the Government Offices Network; CLG, BIS, DfT, DCFS, DWP, DEFRA, Home Office, MoJ, DECC, DCMS, Cabinet Office and DoH.

## Homes and Communities Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Homes and Communities Agency Academy at the most recent date for which figures are available. [316406]

**John Healey:** As at the 31 December 2009, the Homes and Communities Agency Academy employed 22.8 full-time equivalent staff.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* administration by the (i) Homes and Communities Agency, (ii) Homes and Communities Agency Academy and (iii) Tenant Services Authority in 2008-09; and how much each such organisation has budgeted for in each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [316408]

**John Healey:** Spend for 2008-09 can be found in the published annual report and accounts of the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority. The accommodation and administration costs of the academy are contained within the overall costs of the Homes and Communities Agency. Details of the organisations' running costs budget can be found in their corporate plans and it is for the organisations to decide throughout the year how to allocate this budget within their programme sub-heads. Full details of spend for 2009-10 will be available in the 2009-10 annual report and accounts.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent in each region in each year since its inception. [316433]

**John Healey:** The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established from 1 December 2008-09, though it reported in its financial statements 2008-09 on a merger accounting basis with figures covering the full financial year for 2008-09 (so including spend by the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and also those programmes formerly delivered by the Department, during the earlier part of the year).

Information on HCA's total spending broken down by region and by local authority for 2008-09 is to be published on HCA's website in due course. In addition, spending on social housing grant by the HCA through the national affordable housing programme is already shown for each English region for 2008-09, in the agency's financial statements for 2008-09.

In-year progress in 2009-10 on national affordable housing programme regional allocations made through the continuous market engagement process is reported through quarterly regional investment statements, made available on the relevant regional pages of HCA's website.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent on its *(a)* Decent Homes and Mixed Communities, *(b)* Growth, *(c)* Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant, *(d)* Housing Market Renewal, *(e)* Thames Gateway Delivery, *(f)* Place of Change and *(g)* Vulnerable People programme in 2008-09; and how much it expects to spent on each such programme in 2009-10. [316481]

**John Healey:** For items *(a)* to *(f)*, this information is available in the HCA's annual report and accounts, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House, or its corporate plan which is available at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/HCA_Corporate%20Plan_English.pdf

In respect of Vulnerable People, the Place of Change and Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant programmes are specifically targeted at vulnerable people. The HCA also seeks to support vulnerable and older people through its more general programmes such as the National

Affordable Housing Programme, which covers both general needs and specialised and supported housing, and the Property and Regeneration programme.

### Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 969W, on the housing market, when Ministers were first informed of the new analytical model developed by Heriot-Watt University; when that model came into use in his Department; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report associated with the development of that model. [316744]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Ministers approved the commissioning of the housing need analytical model in March 2008. A final version of the model was provided to the Department in November 2009. The associated research report is currently being finalised.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* households there were in each region in each of the last two years. [316805]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information on the number of dwellings in each region of England is shown on an annual basis in live table 109 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-109.xls

Information on the number of households in each region of England is shown on an annual basis in live table S135a on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393611.xls

### Housing: Construction

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* affordable homes and *(b)* homes for social rent have been built in the spending period 2008-11. [316743]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The most recent available information relates to 2008-09 and can be found in Live Table 1009 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406088.xls

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed by (i) local authorities, (ii) housing associations and (iii) private builders in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10 to date. [316820]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information on the number of starts and completions by the tenure of the dwelling, rather than by who built the dwelling, is shown on a quarterly basis in Live Table 213 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1387065.xls

The same series is shown on a seasonally adjusted basis in Live Table 222 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1387071.xls

### Housing: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on the major repairs allowance in 2008-09; and how much he expects to spend on the allowance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [316813]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The total major repairs allowances for the three years are given in the following table.

| | *Major repairs allowance (£)* |
|---|---:|
| 2008-09 | 1,241,997,931 |
| 2009-10[1] | 1,245,864,505 |
| 2010-11[2] | 1,273,502,542 |

[1] Subject to audit.

[2] Projected.

Figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are taken from the latest housing revenue account subsidy claim forms, the projection for 2010-11 is taken from the recent HRA subsidy determination.

### Housing: Morecambe

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Government have allocated for housing regeneration in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency since 1997. [311560]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Funding for housing regeneration is mainly delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency. The Homes and Communities Agency operates and plans at a local authority level.

The following table provides details of HCA spend within the local authority area of Lancaster from 2004-05 onwards.

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| Property and Regen programme and asset transfer | 2,998,502 | 4,675,519 | 3,943,494 | 1,409,210 | 833,944 |
| National Affordable Housing programme | 2,202,944 | 1,745,068 | 2,881,443 | 2,401,295 | 2,176,243 |
| Total | 5,201,446 | 6,420,547 | 6,824,937 | 3,810,503 | 3,010,187 |

The Agency's Property and Regeneration programme relies on a mixture of receipts from disposed land assets as well as on Government grant.

Information from 1997 can be provided to a longer timescale. The HCA will report on figures for 2009-10 after the end of the financial year in their accounts and financial statements.

### Local Government Finance

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 482W, on local government finance, against which authorities capping action was taken; and how the capping principles were exceeded in each case. [316591]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to the following statements made by previous local government Ministers:

29 April 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1019-21;

23 March 2005, *Official Report*, columns 883-4;

27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 567-9;

27 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 339-41;

26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 464-5.

### Local Government: Standards

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the cost to local authorities of reporting on their performance against *(a)* negotiated area targets and *(b)* national indicators. [316841]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We do not hold this information. However, over the last year Communities and Local Government has undertaken reviews of the national indicator set and the local area agreement process to assess the impact of the local performance framework on local authorities and their partners. These reviews have been used to inform commitments in the recent "Putting the Front Line First: Smarter Government" White Paper. Specific commitments include removing indicators that are no longer relevant or needed by April 2010 and reducing the overall number of national indicators against which local authorities will have to report their performance for the next spending period. The White Paper also invited the current Total Place pilots to provide information on the costs of assessment and inspection to inform the Smarter Government workstreams. A report on the pilots will be published alongside Budget 2010.

### Mobile Homes: Licensing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation on park home site licensing; how many responses to that consultation his Department received; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to that consultation. [316945]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 725W.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which petrol retail outlets were used in the assessment of the new rateable values for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect on 1 April 2010; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* region was of each. [311056]

**Barbara Follett:** Broadly speaking, rateable value represents the annual rental value of the property. For the 2010 business rates revaluation, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) collected and examined 1,300 rents on petrol filling stations. This evidence was then filtered down to those rents that best reflected the rateable value assumptions and were agreed closest to the valuation date of 1 April 2008. There are around 100 of these key rents for petrol filling stations of which around 60 per cent. are from independent operators.

Section 18 (1) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 provides that Revenue and Customs officials may not disclose information which is held by them in connection with their function. As a result, valuation officers cannot disclose any details of the key rents from which the ratepayers or the properties concerned could be identified.

The key rents can be summarised by region in England as follows:

| *Region* | *Number of key rents* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 11 |
| East of England | 11 |
| London | 4 |
| North East | 4 |
| North West | 17 |
| South East | 15 |
| South West | 16 |
| West Midlands | 7 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 12 |

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more and will not raise a single extra penny for Government. Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations have grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been received by local authorities in respect of business rates on hereditaments in ports since the entry into effect of the results of the Valuation Office Agency's review of rateable values. [316930]

**Barbara Follett:** The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency was carried out in order to ensure that all individual business properties within, and outside, ports are rated fairly and to ensure that the burden of contributions to the funding local government services is shared equitably among businesses across the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, thus helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

The Government only hold a snap shot of information, from local authorities, on how much has been collected from port based ratepayers for backdated liabilities. It does not have information on how much may have been collected in respect of ongoing business rates payments on hereditaments in ports. As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and that a total of £21,246,973.01 in backdated liabilities had been collected.

## Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1298W, on non-domestic rates, what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable value was in respect of each of the hereditaments included in the answer. [311798]

**Barbara Follett:** The following table gives the 50 hereditaments in Greater London, with their post codes, which showed, as at 29 May 2009, the largest percentage increase in rateable value between the compilation of the 2005 and the 2010 Ratings List. It also shows the percentage change in each hereditament's bill between 2005 and 2010 after transitional relief has been applied, but before other reliefs.

The figures in the table are based on those in the Department's 2009 consultation document entitled: "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England". A copy of this can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

| *Rank* | *Percentage change in rateable value* | *Percentage change in bill as a result of revaluation after transitional relief*[1] | *Postcode* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 109,900 | 3.5 | E2 8LR |
| 2 | 3,000 | 3.5 | TN16 3LB |
| 3 | 1,878 | 11 | EC1Y 1BE |
| 4 | 1,631 | 11 | E8 1HR |
| 5 | 1,480 | 3.5 | N17 7AA |
| 6 | 1,400 | 11 | SE18 4QH |
| 7 | 1,283 | 3.5 | BR6 0PF |
| 8 | 1,245 | 11 | SE15 3NX |
| 9 | 1,180 | 3.5 | HA3 7ZZ |
| 10 | 1,006 | 11 | BR5 2QR |
| 11 | 980 | 11 | E2 7RG |
| 12 | 938 | 11 | E8 4QJ |
| 13 | 907 | 11 | HA6 2RN |
| 14 | 900 | 3.5 | SM6 0EN |
| 15 | 900 | 11 | E14 5SH |
| 16 | 884 | 3.5 | HA8 5HX |
| 17 | 838 | 3.5 | E14 5AB |
| 18 | 832 | 11 | EC2A 3BX |
| 19 | 825 | 3.5 | SW11 6HF |
| 20 | 781 | 11 | WC1H 0EG |
| 21 | 773 | 3.5 | TW2 6HT |
| 22 | 757 | 3.5 | E14 9SD |
| 23 | 743 | 11 | NW1 6UP |
| 24 | 740 | 11 | UB1 2JL |
| 25 | 727 | 3.5 | W10 5BN |
| 26 | 704 | 11 | SE10 8SE |
| 27 | 702 | 3.5 | SW6 4PH |
| 28 | 688 | 3.5 | SW7 8AN |
| 29 | 673 | 3.5 | SE8 3BU |
| 30 | 672 | 11 | SE17 1RW |
| 31 | 653 | 11 | SW2 2RW |
| 32 | 636 | 3.5 | N1 9RR |
| 33 | 632 | 11 | EC1V 9HL |
| 34 | 613 | 3.5 | E6 1EW |
| 35 | 613 | 3.5 | SE16 7LU |
| 36 | 580 | 3.5 | EN3 5JE |
| 37 | 562 | 11 | E3 5QS |
| 38 | 550 | 3.5 | SE1 7HR |
| 39 | 541 | 11 | EC1V 9HL |
| 40 | 541 | 11 | NW4 3FQ |
| 41 | 541 | 11 | NW4 3FQ |
| 42 | 541 | 11 | NW4 3FQ |
| 43 | 538 | 11 | EN2 8AN |
| 44 | 536 | 11 | E1 6QL |
| 45 | 535 | 11 | NW1 0AS |
| 46 | 529 | 11 | W9 2BS |
| 47 | 525 | 3.5 | EN5 5RU |
| 48 | 520 | 11 | E7 9HZ |
| 49 | 513 | 11 | WC2N 6NN |
| 50 | 503 | 11 | EC2M 7PY |

[1] The percentage change in rate bills will not be the same as the percentage change in rateable value. The Government's £2 billion relief scheme will cap increases in 2010-11 rate bills as a result of revaluation at no more than 11 per cent. and just 3.5 per cent. for small hereditaments.

The table includes mainly one-off cases where there are specific factual reasons for changes in rateable value well outside of the norm. In some cases the publication of draft valuations has brought forward new information and valuations—either 2005, 2010 or both—have been amended accordingly. Otherwise reasons for change relate to the unique circumstances of individual valuations; examples include removal of temporary reductions in rateable value or changes in domestic elements.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of its property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 238W, on non-domestic rates, what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable values was of each of the 50 individual hereditaments. [311833]

**Barbara Follett:** The following table gives the 50 hereditaments in the South East, with their post codes, which showed, as at 29 May 2009, the largest percentage increase in rateable value between the compilation of the 2005 and the 2010 Ratings List. It also shows the percentage change in each hereditament's bill between 2005 and 2010 after transitional relief has been applied, but before other reliefs.

The figures in the table are based on those in the Department's 2009 consultation document entitled: "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England". A copy of this can be found at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

| *Rank* | *Percentage change in rateable value* | *Percentage change in bill as a result of revaluation after transitional relief*[1] | *Postcode* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | [2]— | 3.5 | RH17 6EB |
| 2 | [2]— | 3.5 | ME15 6JX |
| 3 | [2]— | 3.5 | KT18 6DY |
| 4 | 4,567 | 3.5 | CT5 2AW |
| 5 | 2,600 | 3.5 | SO31 8GD |
| 6 | 2,471 | 3.5 | PO18 8TH |
| 7 | 2,025 | 3.5 | MK17 9LR |
| 8 | 1,708 | 3.5 | ME20 7TP |
| 9 | 1,650 | 3.5 | PO36 0NY |
| 10 | 1,633 | 3.5 | ME13 7TS |
| 11 | 1,614 | 3.5 | PO20 7HZ |
| 12 | 1,333 | 3.5 | OX3 0BX |
| 13 | 1,275 | 3.5 | GL7 3QS |
| 14 | 1,267 | 3.5 | SO22 6AA |
| 15 | 1,158 | 11 | RG1 4QA |
| 16 | 1,100 | 11 | TN22 1UN |
| 17 | 1,054 | 3.5 | CR3 5DQ |
| 18 | 1,041 | 11 | BN22 7LD |
| 19 | 1,040 | 3.5 | SO51 8BU |
| 20 | 1,023 | 3.5 | TN5 1PT |
| 21 | 963 | 11 | KT15 1NN |
| 22 | 900 | 3.5 | CT15 5AF |
| 23 | 900 | 3.5 | PO22 9NQ |
| 24 | 900 | 3.5 | TN32 5NY |
| 25 | 858 | 3.5 | PO37 6BN |
| 26 | 833 | 3.5 | SP10 5DD |
| 27 | 800 | 3.5 | CT7 0HW |
| 28 | 792 | 11 | RG4 5AU |
| 29 | 785 | 11 | BN2 5UZ |
| 30 | 775 | 3.5 | SO41 8AN |
| 31 | 744 | 3.5 | TN29 9JH |
| 32 | 742 | 11 | SL1 5NL |
| 33 | 717 | 3.5 | RG17 7DR |
| 34 | 714 | 11 | BN10 7ET |
| 35 | 714 | 11 | SL1 3HS |
| 36 | 690 | 11 | TN37 7RD |
| 37 | 690 | 11 | RH6 0HJ |
| 38 | 688 | 3.5 | CT9 4LB |
| 39 | 681 | 11 | PO35 5SZ |
| 40 | 650 | 3.5 | OX26 2GN |
| 41 | 650 | 3.5 | PO20 7HY |
| 42 | 643 | 11 | PO6 1RU |
| 43 | 638 | 11 | TN11 9PE |
| 44 | 633 | 3.5 | TN26 2PZ |
| 45 | 633 | 3.5 | BN15 8ES |
| 46 | 633 | 3.5 | BN15 8ES |
| 47 | 633 | 3.5 | BN15 8ES |
| 48 | 633 | 3.5 | BN15 8ES |
| 49 | 633 | 3.5 | BN15 8ES |
| 50 | 633 | 3.5 | BN15 8ES |

[1] The percentage change in rate bills will not be the same as the, percentage change in rateable value. The Government's £2 billion relief scheme will cap increases in 2010-11 rate bills as a result of revaluation at no more than 11 per cent. and just 3.5 per cent. for small hereditaments.

[2] These three hereditaments had zero rateable value in the 2005 Rating Lists.

The table includes mainly one-off cases where there are specific factual reasons for changes in rateable value well outside of the norm. In some cases the publication of draft valuations has brought forward new information and valuations—either 2005, 2010 or both—have been amended accordingly. Otherwise reasons for change relate to the unique circumstances of individual valuations; examples include removal of temporary reductions in rateable value or changes in domestic elements.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of its property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

## Planning Obligations

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of affordable housing made available under section 106 agreements in 2008-09. [316808]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government show that in 2008-09, 55,770 new affordable homes were provided in England, of which 32,290 (58 per cent.), were either fully or partially funded using section 106 contributions.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts were awarded to social enterprises by each regional development agency (RDA) in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the RDAs budget this represented in each such year. [314859]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** When awarding contracts, the regional development agencies (RDAs) do not record whether or not a business is a social enterprise. To filter the information to obtain the 'type' of organisation would require the RDAs to examine every agreement and the awardee individually (for each of the last five years) in order to ascertain whether or not they fall under the category of 'social enterprise'. Undertaking such an activity would incur disproportionate cost.

### Sandwell

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the borough of Sandwell, the effects on that borough of changes to the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [316475]

**Barbara Follett:** The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Communities and Local Government statistical publications can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

This includes time series data across the Department's remit at various geographic levels.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

This includes evaluations of key policies.

Over the last year, Communities and Local Government has:

Played a critical role responding to the recession ensuring people, business and communities receive the practical help they need, including: helping people avoid repossession; Real Help Now; supporting the construction industry, critical regeneration projects, jobs through Future Jobs Fund; and businesses with the business rates deferral scheme.

Set in place a platform for greater local devolution for more effective decision making through local area agreements (LAAs)—including slashing central performance standards from over 1,200 to fewer than 200.

Continued building on this through Total Place pilots, leading innovation across public services—cutting out waste, overlap and duplication, meaning more and better quality services at less cost to the taxpayer.

Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set out in the Planning Act 2008—which will make the major Infrastructure Planning decisions for the country, delivering a faster, fairer and more transparent planning regime.

Announced the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to deliver an additional 20,000 units of affordable housing, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction industry over this year and next, including 1,300 new apprenticeship schemes.

During the period since 1997, the Department's achievements include:

Working with local housing authorities to reduce the number of people accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by 71 per cent. since the peak in 2003—the lowest level since the late seventies—through greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness.

Launching the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' which set out a new stage of public sector reform, significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

Helping reduce accidental fire-related deaths—the lowest level since 1959.

Reducing by 1.2 million the number of non decent social homes.

Investing through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £1.87 billion for England's 88 most deprived local authorities—leading to real positive change.

### Sheltered Housing and Care Homes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in *(a)* sheltered accommodation and *(b)* care homes in each year since 1997. [316031]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Estimates of the number of people living in sheltered accommodation in England for each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08 are provided in Table 1. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

*Table 1: Individuals in sheltered accommodation, England*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 630,000 |
| 1998-99 | 590,000 |
| 1999-2000 | 650,000 |
| 2000-01 | 560,000 |
| 2001-02 | 570,000 |
| 2002-03 | 500,000 |
| 2003-04 | 530,000 |
| 2004-05 | 520,000 |
| 2005-06 | 610,000 |
| 2006-07 | 570,000 |
| 2007-08 | 610,000 |

*Source:* Survey of English Housing.

Communities and Local Government does not collect data on the number of people in care homes. Data on the number of adults (aged 18 and over) in local authority-funded residential and nursing care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Data on the number of self-funded residents or residents supported by means other than support by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) are not collected centrally.

Table 2 shows the numbers of adults aged 18 and over in local authority funded residential and nursing care as at 31 March for the years 1997 to 2009. The data for 2009 are provisional; final data are expected to be published in spring 2010.

*Table 2: The total[1] number of clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded residential or nursing care as at 31 March*

| *Year (at 31 March)* | *Total of all supported residents, England* |
|---|---:|
| 1997 | 242,100 |
| 1998 | 255,500 |
| 1999 | 260,700 |
| 2000 | 265,400 |
| 2001 | 261,800 |
| 2002 | 264,800 |
| 2003[2] | 284,100 |
| 2004[2, 3] | 278,000 |
| 2005[2, 3] | 266,200 |
| 2006[2, 3] | 259,200 |
| 2007[2, 3] | 250,200 |
| 2008[2, 3] | 239,100 |
| 2009[2, 3, 4] | 233,900 |

[1] This includes social care funded clients in voluntary and private registered residential, general and mental health nursing homes, unstaffed homes and adult placements. [2] Includes clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights. [3] Includes Boyd loophole residents. [4] Data for 2009 are provisional and sourced from the Adult Social Care—Combined Activity Return (ASC-CAR). *Sources:* 1. Supported Residents (SR)1 Table S1. 2. ASC-CAR Table S1.

### Smoke Alarms

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dicon smoke detectors have been purchased through Firebuy; what assessment his Department has made of the performance of dicon smoke detectors; and if he will make a statement. [315939]

**Mr. Malik:** Up to December 2009 25,000 Dicon smoke alarms had been purchased from Firebuy's current framework contract and a further 853,000 through a previous contract. The tender evaluation process for the current contract, which was undertaken by Firebuy and representatives of the fire and rescue service, assessed product quality and performance against a number of criteria including independent certification to the relevant British and European standards for domestic smoke alarms. These standards include test methods and performance criteria.

### Charter Trustees

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers he has to designate previously parished and unparished areas as mixed Charter Trustee areas consequent on the creation of a unitary authority; and if he will make a statement. [315756]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State may, by order under section 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, establish Charter Trustees for those local authority areas that are to be abolished, and where no suitable local government body such as a parish council exists, in order to preserve historic property, privileges rights and traditions presently enjoyed by local residents in those areas.

In some places, although parishes exist in the area of the outgoing council, there is no obvious parish candidate to preserve the traditions since those parishes are not closely related to the (unparished) city centre. In such cases, Charter Trustees have been established for the whole of the previous city council area. However, once a parish is created for the core city area, the arrangements protected by Charter Trustees would automatically transfer to that body and the Charter Trustees would be disbanded under the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Computer Software

**Stephen Pound:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consideration the House of Commons Commission has given to the installation of Windows 7 on computers on the House of Commons part of the Parliamentary estate; and for what reason Windows Vista is being installed on such computers. [315960]

**Nick Harvey:** The support service for Windows 2000 expires in June 2010. Windows 7 was launched by Microsoft on 23 October 2009 and is now being tested by PICT. If the tests prove successful and it can be financially justified Windows 7 will be used when new equipment is issued to Members. Given the timescales for the withdrawal of Windows 2000 support and the relatively recent availability of Windows 7 the move to Windows Vista for administrative staff was considered the best option given the circumstances.

## HEALTH

### Asthma: Drugs

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether an audit has been carried out on the effects on general practitioner prescribing patterns of the March 2008 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on inhaled corticosteroids. [316122]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has not conducted such an audit.

### Autism

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish an adult autism strategy under section 1 of the Autism Act 2009. [316173]

**Phil Hope:** The legislation mandates a timeframe for the publication of the strategy by 1 April 2010.

However, we will be publishing the strategy shortly, in advance of this date.

### Bridlington Hospital: Closed Circuit Television

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the closed circuit television equipment at Bridlington Hospital to be fully operational. [316446]

**Ann Keen:** The provision and management of local health services is a matter for the national health service locally. It is the responsibility of the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust to protect and maintain the facilities on its hospital sites. This includes the provision of closed circuit television equipment.

### Bridlington Hospital: Mental Health Services

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mental health services will be available at Bridlington Hospital from November 2010; and if he will make a statement. [316449]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of the national health service locally to plan, develop and improve health services according to the healthcare needs of their local populations. This information can be obtained directly from the Humber NHS Foundation Trust.

### Cancer

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the causes are of cancer of the *(a)* mouth, *(b)* oesophagus and *(c)* larynx; and what proportion of cases of each was attributable to each such factor in the last 12 months. [316296]

**Ann Keen:** Research, which is helpfully summarised on the website of Cancer Research UK, shows that the main causes of oral cancer are tobacco usage and excess consumption of alcohol with their combined usage having a synergistic effect. These factors together account for about 75 per cent. of the 5,300 cases of oral cancer occurring annually in the United Kingdom. There is also evidence of an association with the human papillomavirus and low intake of fresh fruit and vegetables. Tobacco usage and alcohol consumption are also associated with cancer of the oesophagus and larynx, together with diet and family history, but information is not available on which to base estimates of their relative significance.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any written instructions have been provided to his Department's Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since May 1997. [315564]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 760W.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313838]

**Phil Hope:** The Department operates a performance management system which rates staff on performance and behaviour scales and allocates each member of staff to one of three performance related pay (PRP) markings: 'Excellent', 'Good' and 'Unsatisfactory'. All staff marked as unsatisfactory are subject to poor performance procedures. It is not possible to determine how many staff left employment by the Department as a direct result of an unsatisfactory rating as this information is not held centrally. The following table sets out the requested information.

| | *Total staff year average* | *Unsatisfactory PRP marks* | *Percentage of staff marked unsatisfactory* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,250 | 32 | 1.42 |
| 2007-08 | 2,178 | 8 | 0.37 |
| 2008-09 | 2,222 | 9 | 0.41 |

Details of the previous two years are not held centrally and to retrieve that information would incur disproportionate costs.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) operates the same PRP rating system as the core Department.

In the MHRA no staff have been dismissed on grounds of unsatisfactory performance. Some staff have resigned during the performance management process but it the cause of such resignations are not recorded. The information for the MHRA is as follows.

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number | 636 | n/a | 789 | 871 | 866 |
| Unsatisfactory | 16 | n/a | 17 | 6 | 8 |
| Percentage unsatisfactory | 2.52 | n/a | 2.15 | 0.69 | 0.92 |

n/a = This information is not available.

The records for the NHS Procurement and Supply Agency (PASA) are only available for 2007-08, when fewer than five members of staff received an unsatisfactory rating and left as a result of the rating. There were 257 (full-time equivalent) members of staff during 2007-08 and the staff leaving represents less than 2 per cent. of total.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313854]

**Phil Hope:** The Department and its agencies do not hold records on the employment of former staff after they leave the Department.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment agencies in the latest year for which figures are available. [315494]

**Phil Hope:** The Department currently has in place recruitment controls for all grades and external recruitment is authorised in only the most exceptional circumstances.

As part of the work currently being undertaken, on Next Generation HR, a single 'e-recruitment' system is being developed that will enable Departments to manage recruitment and lower the use and cost of external recruitment agents.

All external vacancies in the core Department are now also advertised through Job Centre Plus.

During 2008-09 the Department used recruitment agents to handle the administration for their external recruitment campaigns. 73 posts were filled through external recruitment in the core Department. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency filled 10 vacancies through external recruitment.

For the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency 16 job vacancies were filled using external agencies.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the latest year for which figures are available. [315497]

**Phil Hope:** The Department currently has in place recruitment controls for all grades and external recruitment is authorised in only the most exceptional circumstances.

As part of the work currently being undertaken, on Next Generation HR, a single 'e-recruitment' system is being developed that will enable Departments to manage recruitment and lower the use and cost of external recruitment agents.

All external vacancies in the core Department are now also advertised through Job Centre Plus.

The core Department spent a total of £464,581 on external recruitment for the 2008-09 financial year.

In the same period the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency spent £88,108.00 on external recruitment and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency spent £66,614.

### Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Hemsworth constituency, the effects on Hemsworth of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [316309]

**Ann Keen:** The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Hemsworth constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Wakefield District Primary Care Trust (PCT):

95 per cent, of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

98 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, 99.2 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of consultants at Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust has increased from 202 to 248. Between September 2002 and September 2008, the number of doctors in training has increased from 261 to 379.

Between September 2001 and September 2008, the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Wakefield District PCT has increased from 62.8 to 73.1.

91.5 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Wakefield District PCT opened its GP-led health centre, the King Street Health Centre, in June 2009. Wakefield District residents and visitors will be able to see a GP or nurse as a walk-in patient between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week, 365 days a year.

There is one private finance initiative (PFI) scheme in the area that serves this constituency: work is under way on the major £353 million PR development to replace Pinderfields General Hospital and refurbish Pontefract General Infirmary. The first services in the new Pontefract Hospital opened in January 2010. Overall completion of the two hospitals is expected in January 2011.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Hemsworth will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy - Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities was launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

Valuing People Now—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities—was published in January 2009.

New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent, of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

## Hospital Beds

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily bed occupancy level was in *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high secure units by (i) the NHS and (ii) independent sector providers in each of the last five years. [316588]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not available in the requested format. Information is collected centrally on secure unit bed occupancy levels, but this does not identify security levels. Data on average daily bed occupancy levels across the entire mental health secure estate in the national health service in England, for the five most recent years for which data are available, are shown in the following table.

Snapshot data are collected for high secure units only, and were last collected on 30 September 2009, when 879 beds were available, with an overall occupancy rate of 89.5 per cent. The data included 48 designated learning disability beds. This exercise was not commissioned for low and medium secure services.

Data are not collected centrally on independent sector secure unit bed occupancy.

*Average daily number of beds available and average daily bed occupancy levels in mental health secure units in the national health service in England 2003-04 to 2007-08: all ages, low, medium and high secure units combined*

| | *Mental health* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Secure unit average daily beds available* | *Secure unit average daily bed occupancy level (percentage)* |
| 2003-04 | 2,569 | 92.6 |
| 2004-05 | 2,696 | 91.7 |
| 2005-06 | 2,807 | 90.7 |
| 2006-07 | 2,993 | 90.9 |
| 2007-08 | 3,159 | 91.3 |

*Source:*
Department of Health Form KH03

## Liver Diseases

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the causes are of *(a)* chronic liver disease and *(b)* cirrhosis; and what proportion of cases of each were caused by each such factor in the last 12 months. [316285]

**Ann Keen:** The known causes of liver disease are alcohol consumption, viral hepatitis, and obesity. A small number of cases of liver disease are genetic (autoimmune hepatitis, haemochromatosis). The Department of does not collect information about the proportion of liver disease by cause.

## Locums

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department assessed the level of use of external locums to fill gaps in the medical rotas at acute hospitals *(a)* before and *(b)* after the implementation of the European Working Time Directive. [316498]

**Ann Keen:** The data are not collected centrally.

## Mental Health Services: Hospital Wards

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many bed days on adult psychiatric wards were recorded for patients aged under 16 years in each quarter of the last three years; [315776]

(2) how many bed days on adult psychiatric wards were recorded for patients aged 16 and 17 years in each quarter of the last three years. [315777]

**Phil Hope:** The table gives figures for the number of bed days for children on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) wards and for children aged under 16 and 16-17 on adult mental health wards.

| | | *Bed days* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Quarter* | *Under 18s on CAMHS ward* | *Under 16s on adult ward* | *16/17s on adult ward* |
| 2006-07 | 1 | 34,609 | 75 | 4,697 |
| | 2 | 28,171 | 25 | 4,780 |
| | 3 | 34,430 | 38 | 4,679 |
| | 4 | 39,409 | 53 | 4,511 |
| 2007-08 | 1 | 38,359 | 81 | 3,954 |
| | 2 | 37,935 | 112 | 3,893 |
| | 3 | 41,184 | 49 | 4,255 |
| | 4 | 40,072 | 133 | 4,926 |
| 2008-09 | 1 | 37,003 | 16 | 4,019 |
| | 2 | 36,973 | 4 | 3,713 |
| | 3 | 39,534 | 0 | 2,854 |
| | 4 | 42,065 | 3 | 3,101 |

| | | Bed days | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Quarter | Under 18s on CAMHS ward | Under 16s on adult ward | 16/17s on adult ward |
| 2009-10 | 1 | 37,041 | 23 | 2,415 |
| | 2 | 43,389 | 9 | 1,624 |

*Note*

For 2008-09 onwards it is not mandatory for national health Service foundation trusts to submit returns but many do so on a voluntary basis.

The Government remain committed to reducing the number of bed days for under 16s on adult psychiatric wards to zero. The number of bed days for 16 and 17-year-olds on adult psychiatric wards has fallen in preparation for the commencement of section 31(3) (accommodation, etc) of the Mental Health Act 2007 in England on 1 April 2010.

The Mental Health Act 2007 (Commencement No. 11) Order 2010 (SI 2010 No. 143), which commences section 31(3) in England and Wales on 1 April 2010, was signed on 16 January 2010. This provision, which extends to England and Wales, places a duty on hospital managers to ensure that patients aged under 18 are treated in an environment in hospital which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs).

The hospital manager has to consult a person who appears to them to have knowledge or experience of cases involving patients who have not attained the age of 18. This provision applies to voluntary (informal) patients as well as formal (detained under mental health legislation) patients.

It is important to note that section 31(3) is designed to end the inappropriate placement of under 18s on adult psychiatric wards but does not bar under 18s from being treated on such wards. There can be circumstances where an adult psychiatric ward is an appropriate place for an under 18 to be treated. Examples include overriding emergency and atypical where the adult psychiatric ward is the most appropriate placement for clinical or social reasons.

A number of best practice products have been produced to support local areas prepare and these are at:

www.nmhdu.org.uk/tags/?tag=children

## Mental Health: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new diagnoses of *(a)* depression and *(b)* dementia there were in the last year for which figures are available; and in how many such cases the consumption of alcohol was a direct causal factor. [316283]

**Phil Hope:** Data are not collected centrally on the number of newly diagnosed cases of depression or dementia in any given year, nor are data collected centrally on the proportion of alcohol-related cases of depression or dementia.

## Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average a person attending the Accident and Emergency Department at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, waited to be seen by a member of the medical staff in 2009. [315984]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

*Total time spent at accident and emergency (A&E) departments from arrival to discharge, Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust: Type 1 departments (consultant-led, major departments)*

| | Quarter | 0-1 hours | 1-2 hours | 2-3 hours | 3-4 hours | >4 hours | Total attendances |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 4 | 2,965 | 3,747 | 2,365 | 2,275 | 217 | 11,569 |
| 2009-10 | 1 | 3,089 | 4,319 | 2,897 | 2,339 | 160 | 12,804 |
| 2009-10 | 2 | 3,363 | 4,247 | 3,006 | 2,213 | 135 | 12,964 |

Information on the average length of stay by hour, 2008-09 is in Table 1.

Information on the number of A&E attendances recorded in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and quarterly monitoring of accident and emergency (QMAE), 2008-09 is in Table 2.

*Notes:*

1. Information on waiting times in A&E facilities is collected by the Department for its QMAE dataset. Trusts do not submit information on average waiting times, but they do submit information on time spent from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge in hourly time bands.

2. A&E Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data are not based on the same data definitions as those used for the quarterly QMAE central return. The A&E HES data are at patient level and are sourced from the A&E commissioning data set while the QMAE data is based on a Department of Health aggregate data collection and is published by the Department.

3. The arrival and departure times differ between A&E HES and QMAE. The A&E HES data may include time spent within A&E after the clinical episode has been concluded but before the patient has obtained family or private transport from the A&E department. QMAE remains the official source of information on A&E attendances and performance on the 4-hour standard. The NHS Plan sets out that no one should wait more than four hours in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. To allow for exceptional circumstances, the operational standard of 98.0 per cent. has been adopted.

*Source:*

Department of Health—QMAE dataset

*Table 1: Average length of stay by hour of arrival, 2008-09*

| | Average stay in minutes (duration to departure) | |
|---|---|---|
| Hour of arrival | Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust | All providers in A&E HES data for 2008-09 |
| 00:00 | 152.59 | 126.36 |
| 01:00 | 149.58 | 176.40 |
| 02:00 | 149.99 | 178.31 |
| 03:00 | 145.38 | 179.63 |
| 04:00 | 153.19 | 184.30 |
| 05:00 | 151.50 | 187.96 |
| 06:00 | 145.91 | 182.59 |

*Table 1: Average length of stay by hour of arrival, 2008-09*

| | *Average stay in minutes (duration to departure)* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Hour of arrival* | *Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust* | *All providers in A&E HES data for 2008-09* |
| 07:00 | 118.20 | 146.83 |
| 08:00 | 103.08 | 118.57 |
| 09:00 | 100.26 | 113.58 |
| 10:00 | 107.84 | 124.83 |
| 11:00 | 114.60 | 133.67 |
| 12:00 | 121.19 | 140.17 |
| 13:00 | 112.15 | 129.51 |
| 14:00 | 108.08 | 125.39 |
| 15:00 | 104.47 | 124.60 |
| 16:00 | 102.24 | 125.55 |
| 17:00 | 106.27 | 129.26 |
| 18:00 | 107.68 | 131.24 |
| 19:00 | 108.19 | 133.97 |
| 20:00 | 113.74 | 141.02 |
| 21:00 | 113.86 | 145.53 |
| 22:00 | 118.40 | 150.42 |
| 23:00 | 133.40 | 154.67 |

*Source:*
HES

*Table 2: Number of A&E attendances recorded in HES and QMAE by each provider, 2008-09*

| | *England* | *Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation* |
|---|---|---|
| *HES* | | |
| Total attendances | 13,266,413 | 48,245 |
| Number of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E[1] | 12,352,871 | 46,719 |
| Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E | 93.1 | 96.8 |
| *QMAE* | | |
| Total attendances | 19,588,017 | 48,313 |
| Number of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E[1] | 19,208,874 | 47,512 |
| Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E | 98.1 | 98.3 |

[1] Type 1 departments (consultant-led, major departments).

*Source:*
HES

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent patient satisfaction ratings were for the Pain Management Department at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. [316021]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is a matter for Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Rosalinde Wyke, Chair of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments: Primates

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest recorded journey time was for non-human primates imported from *(a)* China, *(b)* Mauritius, *(c)* Indonesia, *(d)* the Philippines, *(e)* Vietnam and *(f)* Israel into the UK for research purposes in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [316436]

**Meg Hillier:** In accordance with measures introduced in 1996, the Home Office requires an estimated total journey time to be provided prior to each acquisition of non-human primates and, after each acquisition, confirmation is required that the importation was in accordance with what had been authorised. There is no obligation for licence holders to provide a detailed journey record or a precise total journey time to the Home Office.

According to our records, the longest journey times, estimated and confirmed, for non-human primates imported into the United Kingdom for research purposes from each of the countries listed in 2008 and 2009 were as set out in the following table:

| | | *Hours* |
|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* |
| China | [1]— | 48 |
| Mauritius | 41 | 41.75 |
| Indonesia | [1]— | [1]— |
| Philippines | [1]— | [1]— |
| Vietnam | 40 | 36.5 |
| Israel | 22.5 | [1]— |

[1] No imports.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many primates were imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and from which countries. [316438]

**Meg Hillier:** Details of non-human primates imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 are as set out in the following table:

*Import of non-human primates for the purpose of scientific research*

| | *Total imported* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *2008* | *2009* |
| China | 0 | 68 |
| France | [1]85 | 0 |
| Israel | 50 | 0 |
| Mauritius | 1,537 | 1,215 |
| Netherlands | 160 | 151 |
| Vietnam | 976 | 631 |

[1] The non-human primates imported from France were a one-off import from a centre regulated by the French Government which does not routinely supply animals to the UK.

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations he has received on the compatibility with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 of the use of ultrasonic Mosquito devices in public places; and if he will make a statement; [316226]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the number of local authorities which use ultrasonic Mosquito devices; what recent representations he has received on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [316227]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The Home Office has received two representations on the use of Mosquito devices and human rights implications.

Our position on antisocial behaviour is that it should be tackled, not tolerated. We encourage local agencies to consider the full range of innovations and schemes and practices intended to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is for local agencies to decide on the most appropriate interventions based on their knowledge of what works best locally. The Home Office does not promote or recommend any particular commercial product or venture above this.

Information on the use of Mosquito dispersal devices is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

### Asylum

**Mr. Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Mr. Jean Paul Manegabe (HO Ref: MBM348/EW/MANEGABE). [315056]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 June 2009.

**Mr. Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Mr. Bruno Medjiako Tcheuleu (HO Ref: T1053805); [315057]

(2) when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Mr. Abdi Mohamed Nur (HO Ref: Y1079438); [315058]

(3) when he expects the UK Border Agency to decide on the application for asylum in respect of Mr Bavell Makdir Karim (HO Ref: K1061849). [315069]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 12 November 2009.

### Control Orders

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of whether the restrictions on the law reporting of control order judgements enable counsel and courts to follow precedent effectively; and if he will make a statement. [316657]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* Where sensitive intelligence material is used in control order proceedings, a closed judgment will normally be handed down by the court. These judgments cannot be made publicly available for public interest reasons. An accompanying open judgment will usually contain the court's findings on legal arguments of principle and is publicly available.

There are working practices which allow for judges and the special advocates appointed to act in the interests of the control person to access closed judgments in other cases where appropriate.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals have been subject to control orders and *(b)* control orders are in force with a requirement for the controllee to relocate their home; how many such conditions were later rescinded; and if he will make a statement. [316658]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* Of the 45 individuals ever subject to control orders (including the 12 individuals referred to below), 17 individuals have been required to relocate and three relocations were subsequently overturned by the court.

Of the 12 individuals subject to control orders as of 10 December 2009 (the last date covered by the most recent quarterly written ministerial statement on control orders), eight have been required to, and have, relocated, two relocations were subsequently overturned by the court.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of the two control orders that were rescinded so as not to disclose the cases on which they were based, for how long each of the controllees was subject to the order before it was rescinded, whether the controllees are *(a)* UK or *(b)* foreign nationals and whether the controllees are subject to any other form of restriction; and if he will make a statement. [316659]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* Two control orders have been revoked and not replaced by new orders as a result of the June 2009 House of Lords judgment in AF & Others ([2009] UKHL 28).

The judgment of Mr. Justice Silber in the case of AE & AF dated 18 January 2010 ([2010] EWHC 42 (Admin)) sets out the timescales for each control order. Both controlees were subject to more than one control order and, where the control order lasted for longer than 12 months, renewals of the control order were made in accordance with the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005.

As set out in the House of Lords judgment in AF & Others one controlee is an Iraqi national and the other has dual British and Libyan nationality.

The individuals are no longer subject to a control order. We cannot comment on whether they are subject to any other form of restriction.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with those responsible for law reporting on the implications of the restrictions on reporting of control order judgments and internment orders; and if he will make a statement. [316660]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The Secretary of State has not had any discussions on this matter with regard to control orders and is not aware of any taking place. There is no legislation providing for internment orders.

Open control order judgments are reported in the public domain in the same way as any other court judgments, subject to any specific reporting restrictions imposed by the presiding judge. Closed judgments are not made available publicly because they contain sensitive intelligence material which it would not be in the public interest to disclose.

There are working practices which allow for judges and the special advocates appointed to represent the interests of a controlled person to access closed judgments in other cases where appropriate.

## Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* robberies, *(b)* violent incidents and *(c)* drug offences were recorded as taking place on university campuses in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [312105]

**Alan Johnson:** The information requested cannot be provided as specifics of offence location are not routinely reported to the Home Office.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* offences and *(b)* violent offences were committed between 3 am and 6 am in each year since 1997. [313018]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested cannot be provided as data on the time offences were committed are not routinely reported to the Home Office.

However, there is a Home Office online report on crime trends since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 that was based on a special data collection between October 2004 and November 2006. This indicates that there is some increase in the more serious violent crimes between the hours of 3 am and 6 am but that these accounted for only a very small proportion of a declining total.

Detailed information can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr1607.pdf

## Crime Prevention: Expenditure

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department allocated to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in respect of educating children on the dangers of (i) knife crime and (ii) gang involvement in the last 12 months. [315644]

**Alan Johnson:** The Home Office does not allocate funding direct to primary or secondary schools though our Tackling Knives Action programme (TKAP) partners (police forces and third sector organisations) have undertaken a range of work in school settings as part of the TKAP programme.

## Crime Prevention: Wales

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to reduce crime rates in Wales. [316221]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Total recorded crime in Wales fell by 3 per cent. in 2008-09 compared with 2007-08. Violence against the person fell by 4 per cent. and domestic burglary by 7 per cent. According to quarterly statistics released in January 2010, total recorded crime in Wales fell by 3 per cent., violence against the person by 2 per cent. and domestic burglary by 6 per cent. in the 12 months to September 2009 as compared to September 2008.

These falls have been supported by investment in preventive measures to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

Wales received £317,748 in 2009-10 as part of the Safer Homes programme to provide target hardening to 3,500 vulnerable properties identified through local intelligence. Wales received a further £384,208 investment in the same period through the Small Retailers Capital Fund to help enhance the security of vulnerable local businesses.

A strong focus on alcohol-related violent crime has revolved around the introduction of a formal and structured programme of complementary projects such as Taxi Marshalling. HOCTiW is leading the 'Health and Crime Data Sharing Initiative' which aims to improve the sharing of A and E data with all Community Safety Partnerships across Wales through the roll out of the Cardiff model. They have also initiated a data exchange programme between the Welsh Ambulance Service and all Community Safety Partnerships in Wales. These initiatives will contribute to providing a better understanding of violence and more effective targeting of resources to tackle violent crime.

Knife crime offences are low within Wales compared to other parts of the UK. Therefore energy is being concentrated on preventative work with young people. South Wales police, funded by the Home Office, have engaged young people to produce an interactive, educational DVD 'At Life Point', targeted at 11 to 18-year-olds, aimed at increasing awareness of the effects and consequences of carrying knives.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) are embedded throughout Wales which enables key statutory and voluntary organisations to work together to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims, adults and their children and reduce repeat victimisations.

In order to reduce drug misuse the Home Office and Welsh Assembly Government are working together to deliver the Tough Choices Project, which went live on 1 April 2009. By facilitating offenders engagement and retention in treatment, these measures will reduce the amount of crime that is committed by offenders in order to fund their drug misuse. British Crime Survey results show that the proportion of people who perceive there to be a high level of drug use or drug dealing in Wales has fallen in the 12 months to Sept ember 2009 compared with the 12 months to September 2008.

The Home Office Crime Team in Wales (HOCTiW) has driven and facilitated improvements in priority and prolific offenders (PPO) schemes across Wales by a variety of methods including PPO walkthroughs, securing capital funding to establish co-location of key agencies and IT case management systems.

South Wales has adopted the i-NSI approach to increase public confidence. This relates to an innovative community engagement methodology designed to deliver a richer community intelligence picture of neighbourhoods and their problems. Based upon a software package written specifically for the purpose, the approach allows front-line staff to diagnose the signal crimes and signal disorders that are driving insecurity at the local level. The recently published British Crime Survey figures show that the proportion of people in South Wales who agree that the police and local councils are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in their area is statistically significantly higher in the 12 months to September 2009 compared to the 12 months to September 2008.

### Knives: Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile knife scanners have been issued to police forces in England and Wales. [315641]

**Alan Johnson:** As part of the Tackling Violence Action plan, launched in February 2008, and the Tackling Knives Action programme, launched in June 2008, the Home Office provided 1,150 extra search arches and wands to police forces in England and Wales to take knives off the streets and reassure the public. This is in addition to search equipment sourced directly by forces. As a result of on-going activity, police forces tell us that there are encouraging signs that knife carrying is reducing among young people.

### M4: Bus Lanes

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to enforce restriction on the use of the M4 bus lane. [315912]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Enforcement of legal restrictions on use of the M4 bus lane is an operational matter for the police. Metropolitan police traffic officers are regularly deployed on that section of the M4 which includes the bus lane. They can deal with its illegal use by giving an oral or written warning, the issue of a £60 fixed penalty notice or by proceeding to prosecution. Any police officer who witnesses an offence taking place there will take whatever action is appropriate in the circumstances. In addition, I understand that the Metropolitan police are working in partnership with the Highways Agency and Transport for London to devise medium and long-term solutions in relation to the lane's use and safety.

### National Identity Register

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the first annual report by the National Identity scheme Commissioner is expected to be published. [312172]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity Commissioner has sent the Home Secretary a copy of his first annual report. The Home Secretary will lay the report before Parliament before the end of the month, after the practical arrangements for its publication have been made.

### Passports

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children applied for passports in each of the last five years. [316174]

**Meg Hillier:** In each of the last five years, the following figures show the passport application intake for adult and children:

| | *Adult* | *Child* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 4,559,018 | 1,980,273 |
| 2006 | 4,608,362 | 1,840,470 |
| 2007 | 4,340,668 | 1,672,091 |
| 2008 | 3,818,363 | 1,601,291 |
| 2009 | 3,611,607 | 1,592,623 |

### Police National Computer

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records have been *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the Police National Computer in each of the last five years. [316430]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Police National Computer (PNC) is an operational tool and is not designed to produce the information requested. To obtain the information would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Prostitution: Internet

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an estimate of the number of people who regularly use internet sites to solicit prostitutes; whether he has plans to seek to prevent the use of the internet for such purposes; and if he will make a statement. [316077]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* In September 2009, the Minister for Women and Equality wrote to the Governor and the Attorney General of California to outline the Government's concerns regarding a particular website believed to be hosted in California. We want see sites like it closed down and are exploring the options for what can be done and the merits in approaches taken in other jurisdictions.

As part of the Violence Against Women Strategy, published in November 2009, the Government have also made a commitment to explore what action can be taken to challenge the advertising of prostitution.

The Government have not made an estimate of the number of people who regularly use internet sites to solicit prostitutes.

### Prostitution: Prosecutions

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* subsequently charged with offences relating to the soliciting of prostitutes in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [316078]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 9 February 2010]:* The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported data it is not possible to separately identify arrests for soliciting offences from arrests for sexual offences reported to the Home Office.

There is no link from the data on arrests held by the Home Office to any subsequent outcome.

### Victim Support Schemes

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was distributed from the Victims Fund in 2008-09; and which groups received money from the fund for the provision of services to victims of *(a)* homicide and *(b)* hate crime in 2008-09. [316394]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* For the financial year 2008-09, £1.5 million was distributed from the Victims Fund across all the services that it supports. The groups that received money from the fund for the provision of services to victims of homicide and hate crime are as listed:

*(a) Homicide*

Child Bereavement Charity
National Victims Association
Support After Murder and Manslaughter Merseyside
Victims Of Crime Trust
Victim Support Bedfordshire

*(b) Hate Crime*

Gender Identity Research and Education Society
Greater Manchester Police—Bury Division
Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks
Hounslow Community Safety Partnership
Kirklees Metropolitan Council
North Herts People First
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Victim Support Greater Manchester
Victim Support Teesside
Voice UK
West Yorkshire Police

## CABINET OFFICE

### Advertising Advisory Committee

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office who the members are of the Advertising Advisory Committee; what procedures govern their *(a)* appointment, *(b)* length of appointment and *(c)* remuneration; what the functions of the committee are; and to whom the committee provides advice. [315221]

**Ms Butler:** The Advisory Committee on Advertising (ACA) was replaced by the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board (GSMAB) in January 2008. GSMAB has a wider remit than the ACA, not only holding the Central Office for Information (COI) to account but also all Government Departments.

The current members of the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board are:

John Mayhead (Chairman, private sector)
Andrew Stott (Cabinet Office)
Mark Lund (Central Office of Information)
Sian Jarvis (Department of Health)
Sue Garrard (Department for Work and Pensions)
Tim Mack (National Savings and Investment)
Yasmin Diamond (Home Office)
Amanada Mackenzie (private sector)
Elizabeth Fagan (private sector)
Tim Evans (private sector)

*(a)* Members are appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Permanent Secretary Government Communication.

*(b)* Appointments to GSMAB has been for an initial two year period.

*(c)* The independent Chair of GSMAB receives an annual fee of £5,000 (ex VAT), all other GSMAB members are unpaid.

Under the Board's terms of reference the objectives of GSMAB are:

To review planned Government marketing campaigns, with a particular focus on cross departmental campaigns and provide independent validation that strategic marketing across Government Departments, including the contribution of COI, is effective, transparent and efficient.

Monitoring COI performance in the development and purchase of communication products and services to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of strategic marketing across government and ensure best value for the taxpayer.

To serve as an independent body and formal mechanism for the exchange of best practice ideas between Government and private sector practitioners providing comment and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of marketing across government.

The Chairman of the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board reports at least annually to the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The Board provides advice and recommendations to the Permanent Secretary, Government Communications.

### Death: Feltham

**Alan Keen:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rate from cancer was in Feltham and Heston constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [316686]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the cancer mortality rate was in Feltham and Heston in (a) 1997 and (b) the latest period for which figures are available. (316686)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate, where cancer was the underlying cause of death, for Feltham and Heston parliamentary constituency in (a) 2001 (the earliest year available) and (b) 2007 (the latest year available).

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies which do not share boundaries exactly with a local authority can only be calculated from 2001 onwards.

*Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population,[1, 2] where cancer was the underlying cause of death,[3] Feltham and Heston parliamentary constituency[4], 2001 and 2007[5]*

| | Rate per 100,000 population | |
|---|---|---|
| | Rate | 95 per cent confidence interval |
| 2001 | 176 | (150-202) |
| 2007 | 174 | (149-200) |

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Death: Homelessness

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 405-6W, on death: homelessness, when she expects data for 2009 to be available. [316780]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2010, Official Report, column 405-6W, on death: homelessness, when she expects data for 2009 to be available. (316780)

We expect data for 2009 to be available in early winter 2010. As a guide figures for 2008 were released on the 24 November 2009.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Charity Commission and *(c)* the Central Office of Information have spent on font licensing in the last three years. [315211]

**Ms Butler:** The Cabinet Office has not spent any money on the licensing of fonts in the last three years.

The Charity Commission has spent £184 + VAT per annum over the last three years.

The Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information has written to you separately with their answer.

*Letter from Mark Lund, dated 2 February 2010:*

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [315211] asking how much has been spent on font licensing.

In the last three years we have spent £2,839 on the purchase of fonts. All fonts are licensed and are held on a font management system. There were no fonts centrally purchased by IT unit.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in her Department in each year since 2003. [306456]

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in the Office of the Leader of the House in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each year; [307090]

(2) how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in her Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307097]

**Angela E. Smith:** An element of the Cabinet Office's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The following table details the number of non-consolidated variable pay awards made to officials in the Cabinet Office under senior civil service performance management and pay arrangements and non-senior civil service pay awards and how much was awarded for the last year of published accounts.

| | *Number of awards* | *Total paid in non-consolidated awards (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 745 | 1,745,118 |

For how many and how much was paid in non-consolidated awards relating to performance in the years 2006-07, 2005-06, 2004-05 and 2003-04, I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 6 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 1185W, and the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 901W.

There is also a small number of staff who received in-year bonuses over this period. The total cost is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what average time her Office took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313660]

**Ms Butler:** The information is not available in the form requested.

236 named day questions were tabled to Cabinet Office between 1 January and 31 December 2009 of which 71 per cent. received substantive answers on the day due for answer. 1,500 ordinary written questions were tabled to Cabinet Office during this period of which 67 per cent. received substantive answers within five parliamentary sitting days.

### Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each such category was in each of the last 12 quarters. [315707]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 5 February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and

(ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each such category was in each of the last 12 quarters. 315707

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Employment levels and rates for people aged over 16 years in employment[1, 2] by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2009. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage*

*Aged over 16 years*

| | *UK nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *UK born* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *Foreign nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 Q4 | 27,142 | 60 | 0 | 25,830 | 60 | 0 | 2,008 | 62 | 3 |
| 2007 Q1 | 26,953 | 60 | 0 | 25,622 | 60 | -1 | 2,021 | 61 | 13 |
| 2007 Q2 | 26,949 | 60 | 0 | 25,616 | 60 | 0 | 2,143 | 62 | 14 |
| 2007 Q3 | 27,219 | 60 | 0 | 25,825 | 60 | 0 | 2,152 | 63 | 10 |
| 2007 Q4 | 27,271 | 60 | 0 | 25,878 | 60 | 0 | 2,208 | 63 | 10 |
| 2008 Q1 | 27,141 | 60 | 1 | 25,755 | 60 | 1 | 2,290 | 64 | 13 |
| 2008 Q2 | 27,167 | 60 | 1 | 25,759 | 60 | 1 | 2,304 | 63 | 8 |
| 2008 Q3 | 27,203 | 60 | 0 | 25,799 | 60 | 0 | 2,323 | 64 | 8 |
| 2008 Q4 | 27,050 | 59 | -1 | 25,612 | 60 | -1 | 2,385 | 64 | 8 |
| 2009 Q1 | 26,763 | 59 | -1 | 25,308 | 59 | -2 | 2,357 | 63 | 3 |
| 2009 Q2 | 26,552 | 58 | -2 | 25,130 | 58 | -2 | 2,315 | 62 | 0 |
| 2009 Q3[5] | 26,762 | 58 | *-2 | 25,350 | 59 | *-2 | 2,277 | 63 | *-2 |

*Thousand and percentage*

*Aged over 16 years*

| | *Non-UK EU nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *EU A8 nationals[4]* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *Non-EU nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 Q4 | 856 | 66 | 10 | 345 | 80 | 16 | 1,152 | 60 | -3 |
| 2007 Q1 | 922 | 67 | 25 | 370 | 80 | 53 | 1,098 | 57 | 4 |
| 2007 Q2 | 989 | 68 | 35 | 431 | 81 | 71 | 1,154 | 58 | 1 |
| 2007 Q3 | 991 | 69 | 28 | 430 | 82 | 44 | 1,161 | 59 | -2 |
| 2007 Q4 | 1,029 | 70 | 20 | 469 | 83 | 36 | 1,180 | 58 | 2 |
| 2008 Q1 | 1,087 | 70 | 18 | 500 | 82 | 35 | 1,203 | 59 | 10 |
| 2008 Q2 | 1,085 | 70 | 10 | 499 | 83 | 16 | 1,219 | 58 | 6 |
| 2008 Q3 | 1,070 | 70 | 8 | 504 | 83 | 17 | 1,253 | 59 | 8 |
| 2008 Q4 | 1,077 | 69 | 5 | 470 | 80 | 0 | 1,308 | 60 | 11 |
| 2009 Q1 | 1,122 | 69 | 3 | 500 | 81 | 0 | 1,236 | 59 | 3 |
| 2009 Q2 | 1,107 | 68 | 2 | 501 | 81 | 0 | 1,208 | 57 | -1 |
| 2009 Q3[5] | 1,090 | 69 | *2 | 484 | 82 | **-4 | 1,187 | 58 | *-5 |

*Employment levels and rates for people of working age[3] in employment[1, 2] by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2009. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage*

*Working age[3]*

| | *UK nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *UK born* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *Foreign nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 Q4 | 25,991 | 75 | 0 | 24,744 | 76 | 0 | 1,962 | 69 | 3 |
| 2007 Q1 | 25,794 | 75 | -1 | 24,529 | 75 | -1 | 1,978 | 67 | 12 |
| 2007 Q2 | 25,784 | 75 | -1 | 24,508 | 75 | -1 | 2,103 | 68 | 15 |

*Employment levels and rates for people of working age[3] in employment[1, 2] by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2009. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage*

| | *Working age[3]* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *UK nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *UK born* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *Foreign nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* |
| 2007 Q3 | 26,023 | 75 | 0 | 24,694 | 76 | -1 | 2,113 | 69 | 10 |
| 2007 Q4 | 26,050 | 76 | 0 | 24,718 | 76 | 0 | 2,173 | 68 | 11 |
| 2008 Q1 | 25,870 | 75 | 0 | 24,547 | 75 | 0 | 2,254 | 69 | 14 |
| 2008 Q2 | 25,882 | 75 | 0 | 24,532 | 75 | 0 | 2,266 | 69 | 8 |
| 2008 Q3 | 25,928 | 75 | 0 | 24,580 | 76 | 0 | 2,279 | 69 | 8 |
| 2008 Q4 | 25,749 | 75 | -1 | 24,372 | 75 | -1 | 2,342 | 69 | 8 |
| 2009 Q1 | 25,454 | 74 | -2 | 24,067 | 74 | -2 | 2,313 | 69 | 3 |
| 2009 Q2 | 25,227 | 73 | -3 | 23,881 | 73 | -3 | 2,268 | 67 | 0 |
| 2009 Q3[5] | 25,416 | 73 | *-2 | 24,082 | 74 | *-2 | 2,227 | 68 | *-2 |

*Thousand and percentage*

| | *Working age[3]* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Non-UK EU nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *EU A8 nationals[4]* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* | *Non-EU nationals* | *Rate* | *Annual % change in level* |
| 2006 Q4 | 828 | 77 | 10 | 344 | 82 | 16 | 1,134 | 64 | -2 |
| 2007 Q1 | 897 | 77 | 25 | 368 | 81 | 53 | 1,080 | 60 | 3 |
| 2007 Q2 | 969 | 77 | 36 | 431 | 82 | 71 | 1,134 | 62 | 1 |
| 2007 Q3 | 969 | 78 | 29 | 430 | 84 | 45 | 1,144 | 62 | -1 |
| 2007 Q4 | 1,010 | 79 | 22 | 469 | 84 | 36 | 1,163 | 61 | 3 |
| 2008 Q1 | 1,068 | 79 | 19 | 500 | 83 | 36 | 1,186 | 62 | 10 |
| 2008 Q2 | 1,065 | 79 | 10 | 498 | 84 | 16 | 1,201 | 62 | 6 |
| 2008 Q3 | 1,045 | 79 | 8 | 504 | 84 | 17 | 1,234 | 63 | 8 |
| 2008 Q4 | 1,052 | 77 | 4 | 470 | 81 | 0 | 1,290 | 63 | 11 |
| 2009 Q1 | 1,097 | 78 | 3 | 500 | 83 | 0 | 1,215 | 62 | 2 |
| 2009 Q2 | 1,078 | 77 | 1 | 500 | 82 | 0 | 1,190 | 60 | -1 |
| 2009 Q3[5] | 1,060 | 77 | *1 | 483 | 83 | **-4 | 1,168 | 62 | *-5 |

[1] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[2] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.

[3] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[4] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Note:*

The above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.).

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

## Government Departments: Information Officers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the letter of 21 October 2008 from the Cabinet Office to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, how many communications staff were employed by each Government department in 1996; and what the total number of communications staff was, using comparative methodology. [312459]

**Ms Butler:** The table shows the number of communications staff listed by central Whitehall departments in the December 1996 IPO Directory. These numbers have been compiled in the same way as the numbers relating to 1998 and 2008 given in the letter from the Cabinet Office to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications of 21 October 2008.

The COI White Book—and its predecessor the IPO Directory—lists contact details for some communications roles in Government Departments and agencies. They are only ever a snapshot in time and therefore cannot be used as a comprehensive guide to communications staff in the civil service.

| *Department* | *December 1996* |
|---|---|
| Cabinet Office | 14 |
| Ministry of Justice | — |
| Lord Chancellor's Department | 15 |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | — |
| Department of National Heritage | 15 |
| HM Customs and Excise | 9 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | — |
| Board of Inland Revenue | 16 |
| Ministry of Defence | 44 |
| Department for Communities and Local Government | — |
| Department for Education and Employment | 56 |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families | — |
| Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills | — |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | — |
| Department of the Environment | 60 |
| Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food | 40 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 22 |
| Department of Health (central directorate only) | 77 |
| Home Office | 47 |
| Department for International Development | — |
| Prime Minister's Office | 10 |
| Department of Trade and Industry | 66 |
| Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform | — |
| Department for Transport (including agencies) | 51 |
| HM Treasury (includes staff in public inquiries unit) | 16 |
| Department for Social Security | 61 |
| Department for Work and Pensions | — |
| Total | 655 |
| Total entries | 1,713 |

### Immigration

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of additional households being formed in each of the next 20 years which will be attributable to net migration. [306818]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The latest national household projections, based on the 2006 Sub-National Population Projections published by the ONS, are published on the Communities and Local Government website. Estimates are presented for the average annual change in household numbers under variant net migration projections.

### New Businesses: Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses have started up in Hemsworth since 1997. [316619]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses have started up in Hemsworth since 1997. [316619]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The following table contains the latest statistics available on business births for Hemsworth.

*Enterprise births for Hemsworth 2002-2008*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 205 |
| 2003 | 215 |
| 2004 | 245 |
| 2005 | 250 |
| 2006 | 225 |
| 2007 | 245 |
| 2008 | 215 |

## JUSTICE

### Crimes of Violence

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many incidents of *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* other offences of violence which resulted in a conviction a child was killed in each of the last 10 years. [316494]

**Maria Eagle:** The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the age of the defendant, their gender, the police force area and court where proceedings took place as well as the specific offence and statute for the offence. The Court Proceedings Database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought nor details of the victim of a criminal offence. Therefore it is not possible to separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person. Unless specified in the statute it is not possible to identify the age of a victim of a criminal offence.

Available information is given in the table for the number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for murder of an infant under one year of age and manslaughter offences of infanticide and child destruction, from 1999 to 2008. Data included in the table exclude offences resulting in the death of a child that are not covered by specific statutes and where the age of the victim is not known.

Data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn, 2010.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for selected offences against the person, from 1999 to 2008*[1] [2]

| | *Offence description* | *Statute* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 102 | Murder of infants under one year of age | Offences against the Person Act 1861—sections 1, 9 and 10 | 5 | 5 | — | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 402 | Manslaughter —infanticide | Infanticide Act 1938—section 1(1) | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | — |
| 403 | Manslaughter —child destruction | Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 section 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Total | | | 14 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Debt Collection

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the results of the Security Industry Authority's consultation on training requirements for enforcement agents will be published. [316575]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Security Industry Authority intend to publish the results of this consultation in June 2010.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many responses to the Security Industry Authority's consultation on training requirements for enforcement agents have been from individuals and organisations outside the bailiff industry. [316576]

**Bridget Prentice:** Six written responses to the consultation documents have been received and four face to face interviews have been conducted by the Security Industry Authority with individuals or organisations outside of the enforcement industry.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department took to inform the public of the Security Industry Authority's consultation on training requirements for enforcement agents. [316577]

**Bridget Prentice:** Following a press release, the Security Industry Authority published the consultation document in a prominent position on their website and notified, by email or letter, 251 stakeholders, of which 20 were outside of the Enforcement industry, of its existence. In addition the Ministry of Justice also notified 38 of its stakeholders that had previously expressed an interest in regulation of the consultation exercise. All of the Ministry's stakeholders were outside of the enforcement industry.

## Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he will publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [313434]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice welcomes the fact that the 10:10 campaign will increase awareness among the public and business about climate change and sustainability. It will help to develop a higher profile of this issue in those sectors that are yet to set themselves any targets for improvement. Some of these businesses will also be our suppliers and this campaign should therefore serve to secure improvements in our supply chain.

Prior to the 10:10 campaign being established, the MOJ had already committed to working towards the stretching long-term pan Government-mandated Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets to reduce carbon emissions from offices by:

12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels, and

30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels.

Although we are only required to report on the "office estate", i.e. buildings where professional, administrative or clerical duties are performed, as a further demonstration of the Ministry's commitment to sustainability, the MOJ has chosen to work towards and report on SOGE targets on the wider estate. To that end the Ministry has initiatives in place to reduce carbon emissions throughout our business operations not only in the office estate but also in courts, tribunals and prisons.

HM Courts Service carried out a Low Carbon Technology study in 2008-09, looking at possibility of retro fitting low-to-zero carbon technologies into the existing estate. Many of the recommendations are now being acted on, for instance, a boiler and air conditioning replacement programme is under way to replace old, inefficient equipment and a trial of voltage optimisation equipment is being carried out.

HM Prison Service launched its own Carbon Management Programme in 2008 and attained the Carbon Trust Standard in April 2009. An innovative project involving Custodial Property and the Carbon Trust subsidiary, Partnerships for Renewables (PfR), has led to a generic options agreement being put in place to erect large scale wind turbines on prison land. An options lease with PfR has been signed for the Sheppey prison with more to follow.

We are also working towards the SOGE target to reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations by 15 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 2005-06 levels. The MOJ fleets are on target to meet Government targets for all new vehicles coming into service by 2010 of 130 g/km, while we already only procure vehicles that conform to the EU emission requirements set for manufacturers.

HM Government's UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, published on 15 July 2009, announced that all Departments would publish a 'Carbon Reduction Delivery Plan', the Ministry of Justice will produce its plan this spring 2010.

The Ministry of Justice and its agencies do not consider it appropriate to sign up to a short-term campaign such as t[illegible]10 campaign target as it already has an ambitious carbon reduction strategy already in place to meet the Government mandated targets. Going forward a key part of the strategy are projects to establish better quality, more frequent data through the use of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR), enabling more timely action to be taken to reduce energy consumption. Other projects include plans to upgrade building services and to optimise energy use both through technological measures and better energy management practice. The MOJ will continue with its carbon reduction work streams already in place and we will continue to promote the long-term and structured work we have been doing to reduce carbon usage. Further detail can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainable_development_in_government_ministry_of_justice.asp

## Departmental Sick leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception. [316467]

**Mr. Wills:** Sick absence data for the MOJ (excluding the National Offender Management Service—NOMS) cannot be broken down to the level of detail requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

4,461 directly employed civil servants in the National Offender Management Service have taken at least five periods of sickness absence, of less than five days duration between the inception of Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007 and 31 December 2009. This represents 7.2 per cent. of all staff employed over this period. An absence of less than five days is defined as an absence where the return to work date is less than five calendar days after the first day of absence. No account is taken of rest days.

The general trend in sick absence levels in the MOJ is downwards. In the 12 month period to March 2009 the average working days lost per person was 9.8 (10.7 days per person in NOMS and 8.0 days per person in the wider MOJ). This reduced to 9.5 days per person in the 12 months to September 2009 (10.5 days per person in NOMS and 7.5 days per person in the wider MOJ).

In the 12 months to September 2009 57 per cent. of absence was due to long-term sickness, where absence is greater than 20 working days.

The MOJ takes the management of sickness absences extremely seriously and is committed to an attendance management system that will help reduce the number of sickness absences while supporting the well-being of its employees.

The MOJ continues to focus management attention on reducing sick absence. Working proactively with external occupational health providers, there have been significant improvements in referral turnaround times. New, more streamlined and simplified attendance policies have been introduced during 2009.

Further work is also focused on well-being and to support this work we have undertaken a fundamental review of the occupational health (OH) delivery model. The re-tender of the contract for external OH services has been progressed on the basis of this new delivery model, which at its core has a focus on proactive case management and an on-site occupational health adviser at every NOMS HQ and prison service location.

## Driving Offences: Convictions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hit and run traffic incidents led to an individual being convicted in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 1998. [315061]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of hit and run incidents cannot be directly linked to prosecutions and convictions at court. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the information requested.

The information given in the following table shows the number of offenders convicted at all courts for the offence of "failing to stop after an accident" in England and Wales, by police force area, from 1998 to 2008 (latest available).

*Number of persons convicted at all courts for the offence of failing to stop after an accident[1, 2, 3, 4] in England and Wales and by police force area, from 1998 to 2008[5, 6]*

| *Police force area* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 146 | 151 | 124 | 117 | 39 | 50 | 53 | 78 | 74 | 86 | 45 |
| Bedfordshire | 47 | 56 | 56 | 51 | 50 | 49 | 39 | 36 | 51 | 59 | 30 |
| Cambridgeshire | 45 | 55 | 54 | 39 | 48 | 51 | 55 | 53 | 56 | 67 | 54 |

*Number of persons convicted at all courts for the offence of failing to stop after an accident[1, 2, 3, 4], in England and Wales and by police force area, from 1998 to 2008[5, 6]*

| *Police force area* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cheshire | 131 | 128 | 133 | 100 | 119 | 135 | 145 | 154 | 129 | 98 | 52 |
| Cleveland | 44 | 40 | 31 | 31 | 37 | 34 | 36 | 35 | 28 | 35 | 18 |
| Cumbria | 46 | 47 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 76 | 63 | 67 | 54 | 65 | 34 |
| Derbyshire | 72 | 81 | 81 | 89 | 77 | 82 | 90 | 75 | 80 | 108 | 59 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 83 | 85 | 73 | 95 | 103 | 109 | 197 | 176 | 115 | 78 | 44 |
| Dorset | 71 | 51 | 56 | 65 | 48 | 64 | 47 | 53 | 48 | 41 | 19 |
| Durham | 31 | 42 | 22 | 45 | 40 | 48 | 42 | 46 | 42 | 37 | 16 |
| Essex | 199 | 177 | 205 | 224 | 244 | 247 | 218 | 180 | 174 | 152 | 39 |
| Gloucestershire | 56 | 44 | 49 | 58 | 52 | 63 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 14 | 12 |
| Greater Manchester | 346 | 383 | 358 | 397 | 383 | 332 | 404 | 393 | 363 | 316 | 166 |
| Hampshire | 116 | 126 | 140 | 138 | 138 | 150 | 123 | 89 | 96 | 115 | 111 |
| Hertfordshire | 81 | 79 | 98 | 82 | 106 | 112 | 94 | 89 | 104 | 124 | 94 |
| Humberside | 73 | 80 | 79 | 103 | 83 | 110 | 74 | 75 | 57 | 41 | 31 |
| Kent | 68 | 49 | 68 | 72 | 87 | 68 | 105 | 83 | 80 | 105 | 84 |
| Lancashire | 115 | 97 | 92 | 102 | 61 | 98 | 88 | 89 | 71 | 105 | 63 |
| Leicestershire | 69 | 78 | 77 | 85 | 60 | 91 | 80 | 65 | 97 | 116 | 86 |
| Lincolnshire | 36 | 45 | 35 | 55 | 45 | 60 | 58 | 39 | 28 | 39 | 24 |
| London, City of | 7 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Merseyside | 115 | 46 | 94 | 117 | 107 | 183 | 198 | 153 | 104 | 78 | 41 |
| Metropolitan Police | 514 | 478 | 403 | 375 | 397 | 349 | 287 | 314 | 368 | 385 | 203 |
| Norfolk | 121 | 103 | 76 | 76 | 90 | 75 | 103 | 91 | 100 | 71 | 55 |
| Northamptonshire | 64 | 56 | 44 | 21 | 8 | 45 | 65 | 74 | 56 | 76 | 30 |
| Northumbria | 78 | 71 | 106 | 99 | 106 | 103 | 115 | 120 | 132 | 145 | 115 |
| North Yorkshire | 67 | 60 | 61 | 75 | 74 | 66 | 72 | 76 | 57 | 52 | 33 |
| Nottinghamshire | 138 | 90 | 101 | 104 | 101 | 106 | 99 | 70 | 65 | 65 | 53 |
| South Yorkshire | 112 | 111 | 135 | 148 | 118 | 151 | 124 | 152 | 142 | 140 | 123 |
| Staffordshire | 64 | 26 | 25 | 19 | 35 | 48 | 58 | 33 | 26 | 33 | 21 |
| Suffolk | 50 | 42 | 27 | 47 | 32 | 53 | 61 | 51 | 46 | 57 | 24 |
| Surrey | 46 | 111 | 61 | 72 | 57 | 53 | 44 | 55 | 61 | 80 | 55 |
| Sussex | 109 | 127 | 92 | 80 | 70 | 89 | 73 | 54 | 73 | 77 | 70 |
| Thames Valley | 100 | 108 | 84 | 121 | 135 | 116 | 125 | 118 | 110 | 107 | 52 |
| Warwickshire | 44 | 49 | 48 | 46 | 37 | 43 | 46 | 36 | 38 | 19 | 18 |
| West Mercia | 112 | 112 | 101 | 126 | 152 | 158 | 168 | 147 | 191 | 186 | 166 |
| West Midlands | 344 | 344 | 314 | 284 | 297 | 273 | 275 | 271 | 269 | 245 | 173 |
| West Yorkshire | 191 | 190 | 186 | 209 | 224 | 189 | 236 | 253 | 233 | 253 | 212 |
| Wiltshire | 49 | 41 | 39 | 58 | 51 | 45 | 53 | 48 | 37 | 39 | 19 |
| Dyfed Powys | 33 | 27 | 37 | 39 | 37 | 42 | 45 | 51 | 54 | 59 | 28 |
| Gwent | 60 | 39 | 49 | 38 | 35 | 38 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 39 | 14 |
| North Wales | 83 | 65 | 54 | 63 | 85 | 67 | 86 | 62 | 61 | 56 | 62 |
| South Wales | 133 | 118 | 123 | 105 | 124 | 118 | 140 | 137 | 136 | 129 | 79 |
| England and Wales | 4,509 | 4,323 | 4,152 | 4,332 | 4,248 | 4,444 | 4,549 | 4,307 | 4,174 | 4,198 | 2,729 |

[1] Offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 S.170(4).

[2] Not all hit and run incidents are pursued through the courts—minor ones in particular may not involve police attendance and may not be reported to the police by the injured party.

[3] "Hit and run" usually refers to a collision in which someone was injured or killed. The offence of failure to stop is also committed if there has only been damage but such incidents cannot be distinguished from those involving injury or death.

[4] A person involved in a hit and run incident may be convicted of a more serious offence such as dangerous driving.

[5] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it Is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Driving Offences: Fines

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine imposed for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third-party risks was in 2008. [316323]

**Claire Ward:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer on 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 262W.

## Driving Offences: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many drivers have been prosecuted for offences under sections *(a)* 3 and *(b)* 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in Suffolk in each year since 1997; [314875]

(2) how many drivers have been prosecuted for failing to stop after an accident under the Road Traffic Act 1988 in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [314882]

**Claire Ward:** The number of proceedings at the magistrates courts for the offence of driving without due care and attention, driving on footway and failing to stop after an accident for the years 1997 to 2008 are shown in the following tables.

*Number of prosecutions for offences under section 3 and 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in Suffolk*[1]

| *Offence* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Driving on footpath—Part of S34 of Road Traffic Act 1988[2,3] | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Driving without due care and attention—S3 of Road Traffic Act 1988 | 668 | 589 | 519 | 537 | 523 | 600 | 540 | 580 | 589 | 514 | 548 | 382 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

[2] Also includes offences of driving on a footpath under the S72 of Highway Act 1835 and sec 54 of Metropolitan Police Act 1839.

[3] Driving on Common Land - part of S34(1) of Road Traffic Act 1988 is not separately identifiable from other offences.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Number of prosecutions for offences under section 170(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in Suffolk*[1]

| *Offence* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Failing to stop after an accident—sec 170(4) of Road Traffic Act 1988 | 169 | 138 | 125 | 107 | 163 | 167 | 174 | 207 | 166 | 162 | 182 | 66 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316419]

**Mr. Wills:** The information requested is currently being collated and verified. I will write to the hon. Member with the full information as soon as possible.

## House of Lords: Reform

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the draft House of Lords Bill. [316335]

**Mr. Straw:** I intend to publish the key parts of a draft Bill for reform of the House of Lords in the next few weeks.

## Juries

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost was of protective measures for juries *(a)* in circumstances in which allegations of jury tampering had been made and *(b)* in other circumstances in each of the last five years; [316319]

(2) how many juries have been provided with police protection in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of providing that protection. [316321]

**Mr. Straw:** My Ministry does not hold information on either the costs of protective measures for juries in which allegations of jury tampering have been made or any other circumstances and on the number of juries who have been provided with police protection in each of the last five years and the cost of providing that protection. These are an operational policing matter.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* trials have been adjourned as a result of jury intimidation and *(b)* re-trials have been ordered in each of the last five years. [316320]

**Mr. Straw:** Her Majesty's Courts Service does not record any data centrally on the number of re-trials ordered as a result of a trial being adjourned for jury intimidation. This could be obtained only by the inspection of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of jury *(a)* intimidation and *(b)* tampering were recorded in each of the last five years. [316322]

**Mr. Straw:** My Department does not hold information regarding the number of incidents of jury intimidation or tampering prior to 2008-09.

In 2008-09 the number of incidents of jury intimidation reported to Her Majesty's Courts Service was four (4) and, from 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009 (figures available for 2009-10) two (2).

The Ministry takes all security incidents, including jury intimidation very seriously and all instances are reported to the resident judge in the first instance and then, where appropriate, to the police.

### Legal Services Commission

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the chairman and vice chairman is of each of the Legal Services Commission's Regional Review Panels; and on what date each was appointed. [315712]

**Bridget Prentice:** The review panel arrangements were put in place in 2000 but since October 2006, the LSC has moved away from the old regional panel structure for the majority of funding/costs appeals which are now dealt with by single independent funding/costs adjudicators. There are therefore no chair or vice-chair representing these adjudicators. The appointment of individual adjudicators is made in accordance with the criteria and guidance on the LSC Review Panel Arrangements 2000 (as amended), which is available on the LSC website.

A panel can sit where the complexity or profile of a case justifies this; however, such panels have been required on fewer than 10 occasions under the post-2006 arrangements. All other appeals (either against refusal of funding or assessment of costs) have been heard by single adjudicators.

The Special Cases Unit (SCU) has its own panel and they work as single adjudicators or in committees of between three and five when required depending upon the complexity or value of the cases. The Chair of the SCU Panel is Andrew Watson, a solicitor in private practice. He was appointed in July 2008. The Vice Chair of the SCU Panel is Simon Sinnatt, a barrister in private practice. He was appointed in July 2008.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on local government finance, what data sets not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to submit to the Youth Justice Board. [314954]

**Maria Eagle:** Youth offending teams (YOTs), based in local authorities, submit the following mandatory summary-level data items to the Youth Justice Board quarterly, annually or as required:

Annual budget/staffing data

Prevention programme case load

Young people convicted of knife-enabled offences who receive a knife 'intervention' and Knife Possession Prevention Programmes data

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) data
Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPO) data

Integrated resettlement support data (only for those YOTs that offer IRS programmes)

### Offender Management Act

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been in relation to offences under section 22 of the Offender Management Act 2007; and what the average length of sentence was in cases of conviction. [316191]

**Maria Eagle:** The Prison Act 1952, as amended by the Offender Management Act 2007, defines the criminal offence and penalties for smuggling contraband such as mobile phones, drugs and weapons into prisons. The Offender Management Act 2007 strengthened the penalties for smuggling contraband, and made it a specific offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment to bring a mobile phone or component part into a prison.

From April 2009, indictable and triable-either-way offences contained in the Offender Management Act have been included in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Offences recorded by police will be published in next year's annual statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales (July 2010).

### Pleural Plaques: Compensation

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has set a timetable for the publication of his Department's response to the consultation on pleural plaques. [316608]

**Bridget Prentice:** The House of Lords decision has raised extremely complex and difficult issues which have required very careful consideration within Government. It has also been important to look beyond the issue of pleural plaques itself to consider how people who have been exposed to asbestos can be supported much more widely. We are actively considering all these issues and hope to be in a position to publish our response very shortly.

### Post and Parcel

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has reviewed the operation of Rule 39 post and parcel. [316405]

**Maria Eagle:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has recently made amendments to prison rule 39, which covers the confidential handling arrangements for the delivery of legally privileged material to prisoners. This was introduced by way of a negative statutory instrument which was laid before Parliament in November 2009 and came into effect on 1 January 2010 (SI 3082—2009). This clarified that the level of authorisation for the interception of such communications had been raised from governing governor of a prison to the chief operating officer of NOMS. It also made clear that there should be no distinction between legally privileged material which was delivered as correspondence or documentation (electronic or other) which was handed over during the course of a legal visits. Both should be afforded the same level of confidential handling arrangements.

NOMS is also considering whether any additional practical steps might be taken to reduce the scope for abuse of rule 39, without risk of compromise to legal privilege.

### Previous Convictions

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* juvenile, *(b)* young and *(c)* adult offenders sentenced in 2008 had at least 15 previous convictions. [316326]

**Mr. Straw:** Figures for the number of persons sentenced for indictable offences in England and Wales in 2008 with at least 15 previous convictions are presented in the table.

*Number of sentencing occasions for indictable offences in 2008 where the offender had at least 15 previous convictions, by age group, England and Wales*

| *Age at sentence* | *Number of sentencing occasions*[1] | *Number of sentences where the offender had at least 15 previous convictions* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Juvenile (aged 10-17) | 50,835 | 1,099 | 2.2 |
| Young Adult (aged 18-20) | 45,712 | 3,363 | 7.4 |
| Adult (aged 21 and over) | 228,945 | 77,037 | 33.6 |
| Total[2] | 325,616 | 81,504 | 25.0 |

[1] Counts of offenders sentenced during the year, an offender may be counted more than once if he or she had been sentenced more than once.

[2] Including offenders whose age at sentence had not been recorded on the PNC.

These figures are taken from table 6.4 of "Sentencing Statistics 2008" which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

### Prisoners Release

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of prisoners released in error. [316246]

**Maria Eagle:** While errors are made in only a very small proportion of the total discharges of prisoners in any year, this issue is one that is taken very seriously. The National Offender Management Service has put in place a number of measures to reduce these errors including:

all release in error incidents are reported immediately by telephone to headquarters as a serious incident;

formal investigations are required in all cases and the learning from these investigations acted upon. Where individual (rather than system) failings have been identified disciplinary action has been taken;

Prison governors and regional custodial managers have been required to review sentence calculation and discharge procedures and ensure additional managerial attention is given to this area; and

Additional guidance has been provided to prisons in areas where it was discovered that detailed legislative or policy issues about eligibility for release had been misunderstood by prisons.

### Prisoners: Body Searches

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many intimate searches were carried out in prisons in each of the last five years; [316186]

(2) how many strip searches were carried out in prisons in each of the last five years; [316187]

(3) whether CCTV is installed in every visitor hall in prisons in England and Wales. [316188]

**Maria Eagle:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) policy on searching within prisons does not permit intimate searches to be conducted.

Full searches (commonly known as strip-searches) may be carried out in order to detect items of contraband secreted on the person. NOMS' National Security Framework permits establishments to full search prisoners both on a routine and intelligence-led basis. Visitors and staff may be full-searched only in exceptional circumstances. Records of full searches conducted in prisons are not held centrally. To provide the information requested would involve requesting and collating information from all prisons which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

CCTV cameras are widely deployed in visit rooms across the prison estate. They help to reduce and detect the passing of contraband between visitors and prisoners and to record, for evidential reasons, information on any incidents that may occur. However, details of equipment installed in visits rooms are not held centrally. To collate this information across the prison estate would incur disproportionate cost.

### Prisons: Death

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody has spent on website maintenance and development in the last 12 months. [316317]

**Mr. Straw:** The Independent Advisory Panel's official website was formally launched on the 3 February 2010. The cost of the design, development and build of this website was £22,400 excluding VAT. The maintenance of the site will be performed in-house by the IAP's Secretariat, at no additional cost.

### Prisons: Dogs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcome was of the national strategic review of the deployment of sniffer dogs throughout the prison estate. [316190]

**Maria Eagle:** In his report 'Disrupting the supply of illicit drugs into prisons' David Blakey recommended that the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) establish an internal review to determine whether drug detection dogs and their handlers are distributed effectively around the prison estate, and that the management processes for handlers are robust. The Government accepted this and all of David Blakey's other recommendations.

NOMS has now undertaken a review of the distribution and management of drug detection dogs. Further work is ongoing.

### Prisons: Drugs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the updated Supply Reduction: Good Practice Guide issued to prisons in England and Wales. [316184]

**Maria Eagle:** The "Prison Drugs Supply Reduction—A Good Practice Guide" contains detailed information about the methods and tactics employed for disrupting the supply of drugs in prisons. As such, in its entirety it is a considerable asset to those wishing to smuggle drugs into prisons. Publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the maintenance of security and good order in prisons. We therefore have no plans to publish the guide.

### Prisons: Sanitation

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the extent of the practice of slopping out in prisons in England and Wales and *(b)* the compatibility of this practice with the Human Rights Act 1998. [316172]

**Maria Eagle:** "Slopping out" for normal prisoner accommodation i.e. using a bucket to urinate/defecate ended as official Prison Service practice on 12 April 1996.

### Referendums: Electoral Systems

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the cost of a referendum on electoral reform; and what assessment has been made of the level of public support for such a referendum. [316545]

**Mr. Wills:** Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 the Electoral Commission is responsible for the conduct of referendums.

The Government have not made a detailed estimate of the likely cost of holding a referendum. We have previously said that, as a guide, we expect the cost of running a UK-wide referendum to be similar to the cost of a general election. In 2005 the general election cost something in excess of £80 million.

There are however, a number of key differences between the running of a general election and the running of a referendum—for example, the role of the Electoral Commission and the entitlements to send communications to voters—and as such the cost of a UK-wide referendum would not be exactly the same as a general election.

The Government have not made an assessment of the level of public support for a referendum.

### Sentencing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced for failure to answer bail in 2008; and what the average *(a)* fine and *(b)* custodial sentence imposed for such offences was in that period. [316324]

**Mr. Straw:** Data held centrally on sentencing show only the sentencing of principal offences. Failure to appear may be sentenced as a principal offence but can be sentenced with other more serious offences. In such cases the sentence given for failure to appear is not recorded centrally. There were 17,351 cases where a sentence for failure to appear is recorded for 2008. Of these 7,527 received fines and the average fine was £68.52. A further 2,347 received immediate custody and the average sentence length was 25 days.

The requested information is shown in the following table.

The data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

*Total sentenced, average fine and average custodial sentence length for failure to answer bail[1], 2008*

| | Number/£ |
|---|---|
| Total sentenced | 17,351 |
| Average fine (£) | 68.52 |
| Average custodial sentence length (days) | 25.0 |
| Absolute discharge | 416 |
| Conditional discharge | 1,595 |
| Fine | 7,527 |
| Community sentence | 2,991 |
| Suspended Sentence Order | 203 |
| Immediate custody | 2,347 |
| Otherwise dealt with | 2,272 |

[1] Bail Act 1976 S.6

*Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

### Sexual Offences

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a *(a)* caution, *(b)* suspended prison sentence, *(c)* community sentence and *(d)* conditional or absolute discharge for (i) rape, (ii) sexual assault and (iii) sexual activity with a child in 2008. [316325]

**Mr. Straw:** The requested information is shown in the following table.

The data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence is imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

*Sentences for rape, sexual assault and sexual activity with a child, 2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Rape*[1] | |
| Caution | 36 |
| Discharge | 1 |
| Community sentence | 32 |
| Suspended sentence | 3 |
| Immediate custody | 865 |
| Total sentenced | 919 |
| *Sexual assault*[2] | |
| Caution | 728 |
| Discharge | 63 |
| Community sentence | 640 |
| Suspended sentence | 207 |
| Immediate custody | 1,122 |
| Total sentenced | 2,113 |
| *Sexual activity with a child*[3] | |
| Caution | 396 |
| Discharge | 15 |
| Community sentence | 246 |
| Suspended sentence | 92 |
| Immediate custody | 572 |
| Total sentenced | 931 |

[1] Includes rape and attempted rape of a female/male over 16, under 16 and under 13

[2] Includes Assault on a female/male by penetration, assault on a female/male under 13 by penetration, sexual assault on a female/male, and sexual assault on a female/male under 13

[3] Includes offences under S.4, S.8, S.9, S.10, S.11 and S.12 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Does not include familial sexual offences under S.25 and S.26

## Youth Custody

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W, on remand in custody, how many young people of each ethnicity aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 15, *(g)* 16 and *(h)* 17 years have been (i) remanded in custody and (ii) sentenced to custody in each of the last five years. [316395]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures which relate to all prison establishments in England and Wales for the years requested are shown in the tables which have been placed in the Library.

## Youth Justice

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 705W, on prisoners on remand, how many juveniles remanded in custody were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a non-custodial sentence in (i) a magistrates court and (ii) the Crown court in 2008. [316176]

**Maria Eagle:** The previously supplied table that showed data relating to the number of juveniles remanded in custody who were subsequently acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence in each year between 2003 and 2007 has been updated to include data for 2008 as follows:

*The estimated number of juveniles[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted or received a non-custodial sentence[3] at magistrates' courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2003-08[4]*

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Magistrates courts* | | | | | | |
| Acquitted | 1,391 | 1,186 | 949 | 847 | 791 | 660 |
| Non-custodial | 1,737 | 1,637 | 1,480 | 1,459 | 1,664 | 1,511 |
| *Crown court* | | | | | | |
| Acquitted | 248 | 220 | 182 | 149 | 162 | 167 |
| Non-custodial | 363 | 284 | 271 | 216 | 211 | 264 |

[1] Defined as being aged 10 to 17 at the date of appearance in court.

[2] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and crown courts who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.

[3] Magistrates courts figures exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the crown court. Non-custodial sentences include discharges, fines, community sentences, and a number of other sentences that do not involve incarceration. Acquitted includes proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn and dismissed.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] Indicates that the data are provisional and subject to change.

*Notes:*

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. It is known that in some police force areas, information on remand decisions is not always readily available to those coding court proceedings returns. In certain cases, the return may be mistakenly coded as if no remand had taken place. For magistrates court proceedings, the number of remands and more importantly, the number which are in custody, are believed to be under-recorded in total. As the breakdown of remands into bail and custody cases for a number of forces is not accurate for a number of forces, estimates have to be made to provide national figures.

Source:

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Class Sizes

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [313492]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is shown in the following table.

*Primary[1] and secondary[2] schools: Classes as taught[3]—Years 1997-2009, coverage Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority and England*

| | *Jarrow parliamentary constituency* | | *South Tyneside local authority* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *LA maintained primary*[1] | *State funded secondary*[2] | *LA maintained primary*[1] | *State funded secondary*[2] | *LA maintained primary*[1] | *State funded secondary*[2] |
| 1997 | 26.4 | 22.7 | 27.0 | 22.7 | 27.5 | 21.6 |
| 1998 | 26.2 | 22.0 | 26.9 | 22.5 | 27.7 | 21.7 |
| 1999 | 25.9 | 22.4 | 26.2 | 22.8 | 27.5 | 21.8 |
| 2000 | 25.4 | 22.1 | 25.8 | 22.7 | 27.1 | 22.0 |

*Primary[1] and secondary[2] schools: Classes as taught[3]—Years 1997-2009, coverage Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority and England*

| | *Jarrow parliamentary constituency* | | *South Tyneside local authority* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *LA maintained primary[1]* | *State funded secondary[2]* | *LA maintained primary[3]* | *State funded secondary[2]* | *LA maintained primary[1]* | *State funded secondary[2]* |
| 2001 | 25.5 | 21.7 | 25.8 | 22.4 | 26.7 | 22.0 |
| 2002 | 25.0 | 21.8 | 25.2 | 22.0 | 26.3 | 21.9 |
| 2003 | 25.0 | 21.4 | 24.9 | 21.8 | 26.3 | 21.9 |
| 2004 | 25.0 | 22.0 | 25.2 | 21.9 | 26.2 | 21.8 |
| 2005 | 25.2 | 21.8 | 25.3 | 22.0 | 26.2 | 21.6 |
| 2006 | 25.8 | 21.1 | 25.4 | 21.1 | 26.3 | 21.5 |
| 2007 | 25.9 | 19.8 | 25.3 | 20.2 | 26.2 | 21.2 |
| 2008 | 25.6 | 19.0 | 25.1 | 20.2 | 26.2 | 20.9 |
| 2009 | 25.5 | 19.4 | 25.5 | 20.2 | 26.2 | 20.6 |

1 Includes middle schools as deemed.

2 Includes city technology colleges and academies. Includes middle schools as deemed.

3 One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

*Source:*

School Census

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio of teachers to pupils is at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Suffolk, (ii) the East of England and (iii) England. [313860]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is published in table 27 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

## Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Cleethorpes constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [315342]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Cleethorpes are given in the following tables:

*Key stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Cleethorpes constituency*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above* | *1997* | *2009[1]* | *Percentage point improvement 1997-2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cleethorpes—English[2] | 66 | 81 | 15 |
| Cleethorpes—maths[2] | 66 | 82 | 16 |
| Cleethorpes—science[2] | 73 | 89 | 16 |
| England—English[3] | 63 | 80 | 17 |
| England—maths[3] | 62 | 79 | 17 |
| England—science[3] | 68 | 88 | 20 |

[1] Revised data. [2] Local averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges). [3] England averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges).

*GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the Cleethorpes constituency*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining* | *1997* | *2009[4]* | *Percentage point improvement 1997-2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cleethorpes—5+ A* - C | 39.2 | 75.3 | 36.1 |
| Cleethorpes—5+ A* - G | 88.4 | 93.8 | 5.4 |
| England—5+ A* - C[5] | 45.1 | 70.0 | 24.9 |
| England—5+A*- G[5] | 86.4 | 92.3 | 5.9 |

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only. [2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15. [3] Local averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including academies and city technology colleges) and from 2000 do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas. [4] Revised data. [5] England averages also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil: teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number of full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with Percentage of People of Working Age Qualified to at least Level 2 and Percentage of People of Working Age Qualified to Level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department *(a)* have the status of embedded communicators and *(b)* are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315170]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Internet

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what redesigns of websites operated by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills there have been since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306214]

**Mr. Coaker:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 15 December 2009:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Since 27 June 2007 we have not redesigned our corporate website.

In November 2008, we made some design modifications to support the publication of Ofsted's Annual Report for 2007/8 at a cost of £1,242 and in November 2009 we made further changes to support the publication of the Annual Report 2008/9 at a cost of £2,300.

In January 2009 we redesigned our careers microsite at a cost of £4,140, with a further update at a cost of £6,700 in August 2009 to support the move to a new organisational structure.

We are currently in the process of redesigning our corporate website to improve accessibility and usability. This has followed research with users. We expect to launch this next year. We do not yet have a final figure for the cost of the redesign as it is still in process.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of his Department and its predecessors managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313840]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Staff leave the Department for variety of reasons and no central record is held about their future employment.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314249]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families is currently responsible for nine executive and four advisory NDPBs.

### Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313661]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Free School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the number of pupils in each constituency entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [314156]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Free School Meals: Mathematics

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals achieved an A grade in A-level further mathematics in 1997. [312244]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The information cannot be provided as pupil level data relating to ethnicity and Free School Meal eligibility was not collected as far back as 1997.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who were not eligible for free school meals achieved an A grade in A-level further mathematics in 1997. [312246]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The information can not be provided as pupil level data relating to ethnicity and free school meal eligibility was not collected as far back as 1997.

### Free School Meals: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in Milton Keynes receive free school meals. [314283]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information requested is published in tables 11a and 11b of the Statistical First Release on 'Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2009', accessible via:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

Figures for primary schools include nursery schools and those for secondary schools include city technology colleges and academies.

### Free School Meals: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in Torbay constituency receive free school meals. [313886]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The requested information is shown in the table, together with the numbers of children eligible for free school meals.

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: school meal arrangements as at January 2009 in Torbay parliamentary constituency*

| | Number on roll[3] | Number of pupils taking free school meals[4] | Percentage taking free school meals | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3,5] | Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Primary[1] | 7,550 | 1,080 | 14.2 | 1,290 | 17.0 |
| Secondary[1,2] | 6,830 | 690 | 10.0 | 870 | 12.8 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[4] Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the day of the census. Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day.
[5] Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

## Gifted Children

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future of his Department's Gifted and Talented programme. [314379]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Government are committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to progress well and that they receive an education that is personalised to their individual needs. We are re-launching an online environment for Gifted and Talented (G&T) pupils and strengthening the support we provide to schools to help them provide the additional stretch and challenge their G&T learners need to fulfil their potential. We are introducing some changes to better support teachers delivering G&T education, to ensure that G&T is better integrated into school and classroom practice and that schools have the funding they need to develop and support their most able pupils, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school children in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the North West were identified as gifted and talented in each of the last five years. [314297]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The DCSF does not hold data on the number of G&T pupils who went on to further education.

The tables show the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented in Chorley local authority, Lancashire and the North West region and England in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include Secondary G&T pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include Primary[1] and Secondary[1,2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils*

*In the constituency of Chorley*

| | Maintained primary schools | | State-funded secondary schools | | Primary and secondary schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| As at January each year | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils |
| 2009 | 1,260 | 15.1 | 1,110 | 15.3 | 2,370 | 15.2 |
| 2008 | 1,030 | 12.4 | 1,020 | 13.8 | 2,050 | 13.1 |
| 2007 | 1,050 | 12.5 | 780 | 10.3 | 1,830 | 11.5 |
| 2006 | — | — | 670 | 8.6 | — | — |

*In the local authority of Lancashire*

| | Maintained primary schools | | State-funded secondary schools | | Primary and secondary schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| As at January each year | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils | Number of gifted and talented pupils | percentage of gifted and talented pupils |
| 2009 | 12,600 | 14.0 | 11,002 | 15.7 | 23,600 | 14.8 |
| 2008 | 11,470 | 12.6 | 10,570 | 14.8 | 22,030 | 13.6 |
| 2007 | 9,580 | 10.4 | 9,580 | 13.1 | 19,160 | 11.6 |
| 2006 | — | — | 7,480 | 10.0 | — | — |

*Figures for the North West government office region*

| | Maintained primary schools | | State-funded secondary schools | | Primary and secondary schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| As at January each year | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils | Number of gifted and talented pupils | Percentage of gifted and talented pupils |
| 2009 | 48,950 | 9 | 59,037 | 13 | 107,990 | 11 |
| 2008 | 46,230 | 8 | 57,270 | 13 | 103,500 | 10 |
| 2007 | 39,230 | 7 | 55,890 | 12 | 95,130 | 9 |
| 2006 | — | — | 48,380 | 10.4 | — | — |

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.
[2] All data include City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

A data table showing information for all local authorities in England has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school children in (a) Suffolk, (b) the East of England and (c) England were (i) identified as gifted and talented and (ii) went on to further education in each of the last five years. [313857]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Through the school census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The DCSF does not hold data on the number of G and T pupils who subsequently went on to further education.

The following tables show the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented in Suffolk local authority, the East of England region and England in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include Secondary G&T pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include Primary[1] and Secondary[1,2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils as at January each year in the local authority of Suffolk*

| | *Maintained primary schools* | | *State-funded Secondary Schools* | | *Primary and Secondary School* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* |
| 2009 | 3,230 | 7.3 | 7,225 | 13.7 | 10,450 | 10.8 |
| 2008 | 3,070 | 6.9 | 6,410 | 12.0 | 9,480 | 9.7 |
| 2007 | 2,470 | 5.5 | 4,580 | 8.4 | 7,050 | 7.1 |
| 2006 | — | — | 2,700 | 5.0 | 2,700 | 5.0 |

*Source:*
School Census

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils as at January each year in the East of England Government Office Region*

| | *Maintained primary schools* | | *State-funded Secondary Schools* | | *Primary and Secondary School* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* |
| 2009 | — | — | 34,930 | 9.0 | — | |
| 2008 | 29,350 | 6.7 | 44,630 | 11.5 | 73,980 | 9.0 |
| 2007 | 36,150 | 8.4 | 50,711 | 13.0 | 86,850 | 10.6 |
| 2006 | 38,230 | 8.9 | 54,651 | 14.0 | 92,990 | 11.3 |

*Source:*
School Census

*Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils as at January each year — national figures for England*

| | *Maintained primary schools* | | *State-funded Secondary Schools* | | *Primary and Secondary School* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *Number of Gifted and Talented pupils* | *% of Gifted and Talented pupils* |
| 2009 | 353,210 | 8.7 | 466,820 | 14.3 | 820,020 | 11.2 |
| 2008 | 331,580 | 8.1 | 448,380 | 13.6 | 779,970 | 10.6 |
| 2007 | 282,310 | 6.9 | 416,440 | 12.5 | 698,740 | 9.4 |
| 2006 | — | — | 352,980 | 10.6 | | |

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.
[2] All data include City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

A data table showing information for all local authorities in England has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Pre-school Education: Teachers

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average teacher to pupil ratio was in infant school classes in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [313493]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Pupils: Absenteeism

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were classified as persistent absentees in (i) 1980 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available; [312060]

(2) how many and what proportion of white British *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls who were eligible for free school meals were classified as persistent absentees in (i) 1980 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [312061]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 19 January 2010]*: The available information is shown in the tables.

The first year for which information is available on absence by pupil characteristics is 2005/06 and relates to secondary schools only. This was extended to primary and special schools in 2006/07.

*Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number and proportion of persistent absentees[4] by free school meal eligibility 2007/08 — In England*

*All pupils[5]*

| | *Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]* | *Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]* | *All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees[7]* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as absentees[6]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number/Proportion | 81,880 | 8.2 | 146,330 | 2.7 | 232,810 | 3.6 |

*White British[5]*

*Boys*

| | *Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]* | *Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]* | *All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as absentees[6]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number/Proportion | 31,910 | 9.7 | 56,820 | 2.6 | 88,730 | 3.5 |

*Girls*

| | *Pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments who are eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]* | *Pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments who are not eligible for free school meals classified as persistent absentees[6]* | *All pupil enrolments classified as persistent absentees* | *Proportion of pupil enrolments classified as absentees[6]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number/Proportion | 30,900 | 9.8 | 58,790 | 2.8 | 89,690 | 3.7 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate
[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year up until 23 May 2008. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once.
[6] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteristics.
[7] Includes pupils for whom characteristic data were missing or unclassified.
*Source:*
School Census

## Pupils: Bullying

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate his Department has made of the level of bullying in schools. [314677]

**Mr. Coaker:** The annual TellUs survey gives us information on the extent of bullying in school. According to TellUs 3 (2008) 56 per cent. of young people say they have never been bullied in school and 39 per cent. say they have been bullied in school.

Overall 48 per cent. of young people surveyed said they had been bullied at some time during the last year, either in or out of school. The TellUs 3 statistics are published on our website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000828/index.shtml

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Romford and (ii) Hornchurch constituency in each of the last five years. [315935]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Romford and Hornchurch constituencies is not available.

Since 2006-07 the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed using a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for each authority and is distributed from central Government to local government, a primary/secondary split on a central Government to constituency basis is not available.

Per pupil funding figures for 2005-06 to 2008-09 for Havering local authority are provided in the table. Final figures for 2009-10 are not yet available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3 to 19 and are in real terms:

*Real terms revenue funding per pupil in Havering local authority—DSG plus grants. Pupils aged 3 to 19*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 (Baseline) | 4,360 |
| 2006-07 | 4,450 |
| 2007-08 | 4,600 |
| 2008-09 | 4,670 |

*Notes:*
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council: it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3 to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

### Special Educational Needs

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties there are in *(a)* Torbay constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England. [313883]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** This Department collects information on children who have special educational needs. For those pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of special educational need information is collected on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is provided in the table.

*Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: number of pupils[4] with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties[5] as at January 2009 in England, South West Government Office Region and Torbay Parliamentary Constituency*

| *Torbay* | | | *South West* | | | *England* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Maintained primary* | *State funded secondary* | *All special* | *Maintained primary* | *State funded secondary* | *All special* | *Maintained primary* | *Secondary* | *All special* |
| 120 | 250 | 50 | 5,350 | 6,280 | 1,280 | 58,930 | 82,270 | 13,240 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils only, in schools located in Torbay, South West and England.
[5] The statistics relate to those children whose primary specific special educational need is classified as Behavioural, Social and Emotional Difficulties. Only children at the School Action Plus provision category or with statements of SEN are categorised according to specific need in this way.

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

### Teachers: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the teacher to pupil ratio is at each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Lancashire; [314296]

(2) what the teaching assistant to pupil ratio is at each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in (i) Chorley constituency and (ii) each school in the Lancashire County Council area. [314298]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested has been placed in both the Libraries.

### Thanet

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to South Thanet constituency, the effects on South Thanet of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [315637]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 2000 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the performance at key stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in South Thanet are given in the following tables:

*Key stage 2 results of 11 year old pupils attending schools in the South Thanet constituency*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above* | *2000* | *2009[3]* | *Percentage point improvement 2000-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *South Thanet* | | | |
| English[1] | 72 | 74 | 2 |
| Maths[1] | 63 | 70 | 7 |
| Science[1] | 75 | 82 | 7 |
| *England* | | | |
| English[2] | 75 | 80 | 5 |
| Maths[2] | 72 | 79 | 7 |
| Science[2] | 85 | 88 | 3 |

[1] Local averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).
[2] England averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges).
[3] Revised data.

*GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools[3] in the South Thanet constituency*

| *Percentage of pupils gaining* | *2000* | *2009[5]* | *Percentage point improvement 2000-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *South Thanet* | | | |
| 5+ A*-C | 52.7 | 75.1 | 22.4 |
| 5+ A*-G | 92.9 | 92.4 | -0.5 |
| *England* | | | |
| 5+ A*-C[4] | 49.2 | 70.0 | 20.8 |
| 5+ A*-G[4] | 88.9 | 92.3 | 3.4 |

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Local averages include pupils attending all maintained schools (including Academies and City Technology Colleges) and from 2000 do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] England averages also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.
[5] Revised data.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational Academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level including the number of free early education places taken up by three and four-year-olds, number full-time and part-time entrants to higher education institutions aged 18 to 20, average A level point score per candidate and per entry together with percentage of people of working age qualified to at least Level 2 and percentage of people of working age qualified to level 4 and above.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Cold Weather Payments

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in Glasgow East constituency have received cold weather payments since 1 November 2009. [317054]

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in Perth and North Perthshire constituency have received cold weather payments since 1 November 2009. [317060]

**Helen Goodman:** The information requested is not available.

### Cold Weather Payments: Devon

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Torridge and West Devon constituency received cold weather payments in each of the last 12 months. [315906]

**Helen Goodman:** The information is not available in the format requested. Cold weather payment information is only available by weather station.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any written instructions have been provided to her Department's and its predecessors' Accounting Officer in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code since 1997. [315471]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Since the Department for Work and Pension's inception in 2001, no written instructions have been given to the Departmental Accounting Officer by the Secretary of State.

According to the Department's records, during 1998 and 1999, five written ministerial directions were issued by the Secretary of State of the then Department of Social Security to the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the then Benefits Agency.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of Lord Bates of 3 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA68, on Government Departments: Annual Reports, and with reference to the Government Response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's report into Government Communications, whether her Department publishes an annual report on departmental communications. [315606]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not publish an annual report on departmental communications, but does include a section on communications in the departmental annual report. The last report was published in June 2009 and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/dr09.shtml

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies in her Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315698]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the number of vacancies, expressed on a full time equivalent basis, filled through external recruitment by the Department and its Agencies during the Departmental financial year ending 31 March 2009.

| *Business area* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus Pensions. | 8,667 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 1,086 |
| Child Support Agency | 459 |
| Core Department | 749 |
| Total | 10,961 |

*Notes:*

1. Information for The Child Support Agency is up to 30 October 2008. The Agency transferred to the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission on 1 November 2008.
2. Figures include all permanent and temporary Civil Service staff and are shown on a full time equivalent basis as this best represents the number of posts that were filled.
3. In addition to normal recruitment during 2008/09, additional staff were recruited to support the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and during the last quarter to deal with rising workloads in Jobcentre Plus as a result of the economic downturn.
4. Additional staff continued to be recruited during the first six months of the 2009-10 financial year to address increasing workloads. The majority of these staff were engaged on a fixed term or temporary contract basis.

### Departmental Surveys

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of the results of her Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [309835]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Work and Pensions will publish results in the Library from our most recent staff survey, completed in November 2009 as part of the first cross Civil Service People Survey, after 1 February 2010 when the results become available from the survey supplier.

The Cabinet Office procured ORC International to supply the 2009-10 cross-Civil Service People Survey.

The Department share of the whole 2009-10 survey cost is just under £98,000. This surveyed over 100,000 DWP staff including the Health and Safety Executive. A response was received from over 80,000 people.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration was of calls made to her Department's 0845 telephone number in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [312890]

**Jim Knight:** The Department, through its agencies, operate a number of 0845 telephone numbers.

Jobcentre Plus delivers its services through a number of service lines, and contact centres, using 0845 telephone numbers.

The average call durations for each service line, for the week ending 15 January, were as follows:

| *Service line* | *Telephone number* | *Average call duration* |
|---|---|---|
| Jobseeker Direct English | 0845 606 0234 | 00:03:32 |
| DWP Recruitment Line Welsh | 0845 601 6796 | 00:01:14 |
| Employer Direct English | 0845 601 2001 | 00:06:16 |
| OVT English | 0845 601 2001 | 00:02:07 |
| NiNo Allocations English | 0845 600 0643 | 00:04:48 |
| EBOST English | 0845 601 2001 | 00:04:48 |
| Tele Account Management | 0845 850 0242 | 00:03:16 |
| Local Employer Partnerships | 0845 600 8192 | 00:03:11 |
| Self Service Helpline English | 0845 604 3349 | 00:04:09 |
| JSA Telephony | Range of 0845 numbers in a virtual queue | 00:04:20 |

Jobcentre Plus has a number of benefit delivery centres which use 0845 numbers. The average call durations, for week ending 15 January, were as follows:

| *Contact centres* | *Average call duration* |
|---|---|
| Employment support allowance | 00:04:09 |
| Incapacity benefit | 00:03:09 |
| Income support | 00:03:00 |
| Jobseekers allowance | 00:03:20 |
| Maternity allowance | 00:03:20 |
| Social fund | 00:02:19 |

The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) also operate a number of 0845 numbers. The average call durations of which, for December 2009, were as follows:

| *Service line* | *Telephone number* | *Average call duration* |
|---|---|---|
| Pensions general inquiries | 0845 606 0265 | 00:05:53 |
| Future pension centre | 0845 300 0168 | 00:05:53 |
| Pensions direct | 0845 301 3011 | 00:05:58 |
| Carers allowance | 0845 608 4321 | 00:03:09 |
| Disability living allowance/ attendance allowance helpline | 0845 712 3456 | 00:03:10 |

Debt Management operate one 0845 telephone number. The average call duration of which, for December 2009, was as follows:

| *Service line* | *Number* | *Average call duration* |
|---|---|---|
| Debt Management | 0845 850 0293 | 00:04:40 |

### Digital Technology: Finance

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding her Department has provided for the Lighthouse Project on digital inclusion to date. [315597]

**Helen Goodman:** The Lighthouse Project was a charitable organisation located in Halesowen and Wednesbury in the west midlands offering drop-in advice and a wide range of support services to the local community. Jobcentre Plus has not been involved in any of their funding.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff and *(b)* medical staff in her Department have received in relation to the administration of special rules for employment and support allowance for people with cancer. [314731]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what training (a) Jobcentre Plus staff and (b) medical staff in her Department have received in relation to the administration of special rules for Employment and Support Allowance for people with cancer. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As part of the training for administering Employment and Support Allowance, Jobcentre Plus staff access three specific training events delivered in a classroom environment amounting to six hours of learning. The events provide an overview of "Support Group" customers whose health conditions, including those with cancer, mean it is unreasonable to require them to engage in work related activities, and customers who satisfy "Special Rules" conditions whereby they are not expected to live for more than six months. The training provides staff with an understanding of the Work Capability Assessment process and how customers falling into these categories are identified. The training also provides trainees with an understanding of the actions they are expected to take, and how the rules and conditionality affect customers with cancer.

Additionally, all healthcare professionals working for Atos Healthcare who carry out special rules checks for Employment and Support Allowance receive training in both the medical and administrative aspects of the referrals. Administrative components of the training include the use of relevant computer systems, dealing promptly with the referrals and obtaining further medical evidence if required, usually by telephoning clinicians involved in the customer's medical treatment. The medical aspects of the training cover areas such as the application of the healthcare professional's medical knowledge in relation to the relevant benefit entitlement criteria.

I hope this information is helpful.

### Employment Schemes: Graduates

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many graduates exclusively resident in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* Southampton City and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire have taken up (i) graduate internship, (ii) a non-graduate internship, (iii) work and (iv) training since the young person's guarantee came into effect; and how many are claiming jobseekers' allowance under the guarantee. [313878]

**Helen Goodman:** The information requested is not currently available.

The young person's guarantee came into effect on 25 January.

### Employment Schemes: Wales

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps her Department is taking to assist jobseeker's allowance claimants resident in Wales to move into employment; [314551]

(2) what assistance under which initiatives her Department provides to help young jobless people in Wales to return to employment. [314553]

**Jim Knight:** The Government are taking decisive steps in Wales, and across the UK, to reduce unemployment and is committed to helping people return to work. It is for this reason that we have made available up to £5 billion, since November 2008, to offer substantial new support to jobseekers to help them find work at all stages of their claim.

We have quadrupled funding to the rapid response service which provides support to employees under threat of redundancy, helping to prevent them falling into long-term unemployment. We have also significantly increased funding to maintain and increase the existing support that is available to newly unemployed claimants through Jobcentre Plus and its external partners.

As well as help with jobsearch skills and access to basic skills training, newly unemployed people now have day-one access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies, help to meet the expenses involved in finding work and, for some, work trials.

In April 2009, we strengthened this support by introducing group jobsearch sessions specifically targeted at newly unemployed people, as well as specialist back to work support for newly unemployed professionals and executives, delivered through recruitment agencies. We also introduced a substantial package of support, the six month offer, for those people who were still claiming jobseeker's allowance after six months. This offer provides unemployed people with access to recruitment subsidies, self-employment help, volunteering opportunities and work-focused training.

The Government have also targeted significant new resource on young people in recognition of the particular challenges young people face during a recession. Young people in Wales will now benefit from the young person's guarantee, launched by the Prime Minister on 25 January. This guarantees an offer of a job, training or work experience to all 18-24 year olds who have been claiming JSA for six months.

The future jobs fund, part of the young person's guarantee, has already created around 9700 jobs across Wales.

In addition, people who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or longer have access to the new flexible new deal which offers tailored, flexible help and support, particularly for those people who experience repeated cycles of unemployment.

Furthermore, we are providing additional support for people who need extra help in the deprived areas in Wales through the City Strategy Pathfinders of Rhyl and Heads of the Valleys, two additional partnerships (Swansea Bay and Mon Menai), and Jobcentre Plus districts with deprived wards not covered by these specific initiatives. The Department for Work and Pensions is contributing approximately £12.4 million to these initiatives from its deprived areas fund (DAF) during 2009-11.

### Employment Schemes: Young People

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department provides funding to assist teenage parents not in education, employment or training to gain access to *(a)* education, *(b)* employment and *(c)* training. [316531]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* Teenage parents have access to a wide range of pre and post employment support. This includes the new deal for lone parents and new deal for partners. Both programmes offer eligible parents, aged 16 years and over, access to a specialist personal adviser and a package of support, including training, tailored to the circumstances of the individual.

Everyone making a claim to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) has an initial interview with a personal adviser to discuss their employment goals and how they will go about achieving those goals. In addition to the support available to all new JSA customers, those aged between 18 and 24 have access to extra adviser support and programmes, such as mentoring and work experience, designed specifically for this age group; those who have less than six months post-education work experience also have immediate access to the work trial programme. All 18-year-old new claimants have the opportunity to attend a 'group jobsearch session' which offers wide ranging advice on job-hunting and provides information on the services offered by Connexions/Careers Service in relation to education and training.

All 18-year-old jobseekers who have been outside education, employment or training for a continuous period of 26 weeks prior to making their claim, will be automatically mandated to the supported stage of the flexible new deal or the new deal for young people, where they receive more intensive adviser support and access to a wider range of employment measures. Some other 18 (and 19) year olds, those considered to be at greatest disadvantage in the labour market, have voluntary access to this more intensive support.

All 18 to 24-year-olds entering stage three of the flexible new deal process or the new deal gateway, are eligible for the young person's guarantee: an offer of a job, training or work experience. Individuals can be fast-tracked to early access to this provision.

A small number of 16 and 17-year-olds are also able to claim JSA, mainly those in 'severe hardship'. These customers will see a specialist adviser in Jobcentre Plus and the vast majority of them must, as a condition of their claim, register for work and training with Connexions/Careers Service who are best placed to provide advice and guidance to this age group.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to widen the Future Jobs Fund to include private sector employers. [315990]

**Jim Knight:** Private sector employers can already submit applications to the Future Jobs Fund either directly or as part of a wider partnership. In order to receive funding bidders must demonstrate that they meet all of the funding criteria. One of the criteria is that the jobs have a clear benefit to the community. Our current Jobs Fund Guidance, including that on community benefit, is available on the DWP website -

http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/index.asp

### Jobcentre Plus

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is her Department's policy that Benefit Delivery Centres accept faxed copied of documents relating to benefit claims; and whether she plans to revise the system for processing benefit claims by Benefit Delivery Centres. [314935]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether Benefit Delivery Centres accept faxed copied of documents relating to benefit claims. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus needs evidence to support new and repeat claims to benefit and any change of circumstances. Our preferred channel for submitting this evidence is for the customer to directly post this to the Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC).

We take a risk based approach when verifying the evidence that has been provided. For example, to verify a person's identity, the original documents are required. However, for supporting information that is considered to be less high risk then copies, faxed or otherwise, may be accepted.

If a customer does not want to post their evidence to the BDC, or if the customer has been identified as vulnerable, an appointment can be made to hand their evidence in at a Jobcentre. This allows the customer to attend the Jobcentre where their documents will be verified and notified to the BDC.

I hope this information is helpful.

### Jobcentre Plus: Resignations

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of Jobcentre Plus staff have left the organisation in each of the last five years; and whether her Department has conducted an analysis of which sectors such staff moved to. [314936]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what percentage of Jobcentre Plus staff have left the organisation in each of the last five years; and whether the Department has conducted an analysis of which sectors they moved to. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following table provides the numbers of staff who have left the organisation in each of the years and displays this as a percentage of the average number of people in the organisation in each of the years. These numbers show people leaving the Department for Work and Pensions from Jobcentre Plus for reasons like retirement, resignation, dismissal and end of contract. It does not include people who join another part of the Department or staff transferring to another Government Department.

We are unable to provide details for the full five year period. Our records go back to April 2006. The latest published data we have is to September 2009. Neither the Department nor Jobcentre Plus analyses where people move to, subsequent to their leaving.

| | *April 2006 to March 2007* | *April 2007 to March 2008* | *April 2008 to March 2009* | *April 2009 to September 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus leavers | 10,607 | 7,847 | 5,402 | 5,137 |
| Percentage of headcount | 14 | 11 | 7 | 6 |

I hope this information is helpful.

### Maternity Benefits: Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women resident in Hemsworth have received the Sure Start maternity grant since its introduction. [316635]

**Helen Goodman:** The information is not available by parliamentary constituency.

### Social Security Benefits: Armed Forces

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the spouse of a serving member of the armed forces is treated for the purposes of claiming jobseeker's allowance in circumstances where that person has left a previous employment owing to the relocation of the serving member of the armed forces. [316488]

**Jim Knight:** Spouses of service personnel who leave their employment to follow their partner will have just cause for doing so, provided they do not leave earlier than is reasonably necessary in order to arrange the move. This means that they will not be precluded from receiving jobseekers allowance on the grounds of voluntary unemployment.

Leaving employment in order to move home is specifically covered in the decision makers guide.

A copy of the guide is available in the Library and is available on the Department for Work and Pensions' website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/

Each case is considered on an individual basis with regard to the relevant legislation and the information provided by the person claiming jobseekers allowance.

## Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest estimate is of the monetary value of fraud connected with each social security benefit in the latest period for which information is available. [316402]

**Helen Goodman** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]*: The available information is in the table:

*Estimated overpayments due to fraud in 2008-09*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Continuously reviewed* | |
| Income support | 290 million |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 80 million |
| Pension credit | 110 million |
| Housing benefit | 260 million |
| Incapacity benefit[1] | 70 million |
| Instrument of payment | 10 million |
| *Occasionally reviewed* | |
| Disability living allowance | 50 million |
| Retirement pension | 0 million |
| Carer's allowance | 50 million |
| Interdependencies[2] | 10 million |
| *Unreviewed[3]* | |
| Unreviewed (excluding CTB) | 110 million |
| Council tax benefit[4] | 50 million |
| Total[5] | 1.1 billion |

[1] All incapacity benefit figures are taken from the 2008-09 incapacity benefit continuous measurement exercise. [2] "Interdependencies" is an estimate of the knock-on effects of disability living allowance overpayments on caring and disability premiums on income-related benefits, which depend on the rate of disability living allowance in payment. [3] The rate of fraud and error on unreviewed benefits has been estimated. Where suitable proxies exist, percentage-of-expenditure results from reviewed benefits that are similar are used. Where such proxies are not available the average of all measured benefits has been used. [4] The estimate of fraud and error in council tax benefit is based on the results of measurement of housing benefit, adjusted to account for the greater proportion of pensioners in receipt of council tax benefit. [5] Columns may not sum to totals due to rounding. *Note:* Customer fraud in income support also resulted in approximately £10 million of underpayments, which is not included, or netted off in this table. *Sources:* 1. Published National Statistics 2. Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2008 to March 2009

## Unemployment Benefits: Merseyside

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of worklessness benefits there were in each constituency in Merseyside in each year since 1980. [315996]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is in the tables; information is only available on comparable basis from August 1999.

*Claimants of worklessness benefits in each Merseyside parliamentary constituency: August 1999 to May 2004*

| | *August 1999* | *May 2000* | *May 2001* | *May 2002* | *May 2003* | *May 2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birkenhead | 17,230 | 16,860 | 16,430 | 16,470 | 15,960 | 15,300 |
| Bootle | 15,890 | 15,480 | 14,990 | 15,060 | 14,740 | 14,150 |
| Crosby | 7,030 | 6,750 | 6,480 | 6,720 | 6,540 | 6,240 |
| Knowsley North and Sefton East | 17,170 | 16,410 | 15,950 | 16,240 | 15,800 | 14,980 |
| Knowsley South | 17,530 | 16,960 | 16,250 | 16,350 | 16,050 | 15,170 |
| Liverpool, Garston | 14,000 | 13,560 | 12,990 | 13,290 | 13,130 | 12,610 |
| Liverpool, Riverside | 21,600 | 21,000 | 20,500 | 20,470 | 20,110 | 19,470 |
| Liverpool, Walton | 19,710 | 19,210 | 18,780 | 18,680 | 18,400 | 17,690 |
| Liverpool, Wavertree | 16,030 | 15,610 | 15,080 | 15,230 | 14,710 | 14,000 |
| Liverpool, West Derby | 18,970 | 18,570 | 17,990 | 17,860 | 17,150 | 16,310 |
| Southport | 8,380 | 8,170 | 8,040 | 8,130 | 8,080 | 7,850 |
| St Helens North | 12,320 | 11,960 | 11,580 | 11,650 | 11,450 | 10,910 |
| St Helens South | 14,000 | 13,530 | 12,990 | 13,070 | 12,720 | 12,110 |
| Wallasey | 13,200 | 12,910 | 12,350 | 12,790 | 12,690 | 12,250 |
| Wirral South | 6,900 | 6,610 | 6,280 | 6,560 | 6,410 | 6,190 |
| Wirral West | 7,560 | 7,270 | 7,010 | 7,340 | 7,010 | 6,730 |

*Claimants of worklessness benefits in each Merseyside parliamentary constituency: May 2005 to May 2009*

| | *May 2005* | *May 2006* | *May 2007[2]* | *May 2008* | *May 2009[1]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birkenhead | 14,800 | 14,800 | 14,370 | 14,410 | 5,850 |
| Bootle | 13,660 | 13,770 | 13,150 | 13,000 | 4,160 |
| Crosby | 6,180 | 6,140 | 5,860 | 5,790 | 6,630 |
| Knowsley North and Sefton East | 14,250 | 14,210 | 13,820 | 13,630 | 4,730 |
| Knowsley South | 14,680 | 14,620 | 14,140 | 13,960 | 5,070 |
| Liverpool, Garston | 12,480 | 12,320 | 11,820 | 11,490 | 12,690 |
| Liverpool, Riverside | 18,920 | 18,840 | 18,000 | 17,580 | 18,510 |
| Liverpool, Walton | 17,280 | 17,110 | 16,490 | 16,180 | 17,440 |
| Liverpool, Wavertree | 13,520 | 13,510 | 12,900 | 12,740 | 13,780 |
| Liverpool, West Derby | 15,980 | 15,870 | 15,220 | 15,010 | 16,340 |
| Southport | 7,570 | 7,630 | [illegible] | 7,510 | 8,460 |
| St Helens North | 10,660 | 10,680 | 10,540 | 10,390 | 11,520 |
| St Helens South | 11,930 | 11,870 | 11,710 | 11,570 | 12,770 |
| Wallasey | 11,950 | 12,140 | 11,840 | 11,700 | 13,010 |

*Claimants of worklessness benefits in each Merseyside parliamentary constituency: May 2005 to May 2009*

| | May 2005 | May 2006 | May 2007 | May 2008 | May 2009[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wirral South | 5,940 | 5,950 | 5,700 | 5,640 | 6,370 |
| Wirral West | 6,570 | 6,520 | 6,380 | 6,250 | 6,880 |

[1] Provisional

*Notes:*

1. Data for 2009 now include Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). However, the ESA component of the data is provisional and is likely to be revised when data for the next quarter are released.
2. There are a number of different definitions of worklessness, but the one used in this analysis of benefits data is the same as the one in DWP statistics that refers to "Income replacement" benefits—those that are paid as replacement for an earned income. These are: jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, income support, severe disablement allowance, and carers allowance. Using the Statistical Group analysis this includes jobseekers, incapacity benefits, lone parents, carers and other income related.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Figures are only available on comparable basis back to August 1999.

*Source:*

IFD 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Feltham

**Alan Keen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Feltham and Heston have received the winter fuel allowance since its introduction. [316694]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on winter fuel payments was not broken down by parliamentary constituency for winters 1997-98 and 1998-99. Information on individual payments made from winter 1999-2000 onwards is in the following table.

*Feltham and Heston constituency*

| | *Individual payments* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 13,675 |
| 2000-01 | 14,970 |
| 2001-02 | 14,970 |
| 2002-03 | 15,150 |
| 2003-04 | 15,090 |
| 2004-05 | 14,880 |
| 2005-06 | 14,930 |
| 2006-07 | 15,020 |
| 2007-08 | 15,240 |
| 2008-09 | 15,490 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures up to 2004-05 are rounded to the nearest five
2. Figures from 2005-06 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information Directorate 100 per cent data.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316459]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** There have been 37 home civil service staff of the Department for International Development (DFID) who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316423]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The amount paid by the Department for International Development (DFID) to the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) in each of the past five years is provided in the following table.

| | *Amount paid to GCDA (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 256,841 |
| 2005-06 | 283,476 |
| 2006-07 | 262,604 |
| 2007-08 | 313,092 |
| 2008-09 | 537,398 |
| 2009-10 to date | 352,428 |

Costs to DFID of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statements and are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Haiti: Earthquakes

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's four-person field assessment team deployed to Haiti has *(a)* returned and *(b)* produced its report. [316550]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) original assessment team members returned to the UK on Sunday 7 February after a period of handover to new personnel who will continue to provide daily field reports on the developing humanitarian situation in Haiti. These daily situation reports are used to inform strategic choices and funding decisions and are published on the DFID website for members of the public to view. To date DFID has not produced a final report on Haiti. We expect our assessment team to continue reporting from Haiti for at least three months from the date of the earthquake on 12 January. Daily situation reports and further information on the earthquake in Haiti can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Haiti-Earthquake/

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people the UK Fire and Rescue Service personnel saved in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake; and what assessment the UK Fire and Rescue Service has made of the effectiveness of search and rescue efforts in Haiti. [316551]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The UK fire and rescue team pulled three people from the rubble alive and helped others through treating the injured. They also assisted the United Nations co-ordinate the overall search and rescue effort.

The team was debriefed on its return and is looking closely at what lessons have been learned from the mission in Haiti that can be applied in future emergency responses.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* personnel and *(b)* other resources his Department has in Haiti as part of the earthquake relief effort. [316552]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) currently has a seven member field assessment team in Haiti. In addition, four experts have been seconded to other organisations to assist with the relief effort. The stabilisation unit has also deployed two staff to Haiti, with two more expected to deploy this week and a further two standing by to provide additional support should the need arise.

DFID has funded four airlifts of relief supplies and provided funding to multilateral organisations and NGOs for a range of interventions including shelter, health, water and sanitation. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ship Largs Bay is presently on route to Haiti carrying further relief goods including corrugated iron sheeting, vehicles, port enabling equipment consisting of various forklifts and further relief items for the Red Cross and a number of NGOs.

### Stress

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of any advice issued to staff of his Department on stress recognition and management. [316480]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Copies of the advice and guidance available to staff of the Department for International Development (DFID) will be placed in the House Library.

### Zambia: Debts

**Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of Zambia's bilateral debt to the UK is outstanding. [316164]

**Mr. Thomas:** Zambia has no outstanding bilateral debt to the UK. In April 2005 Zambia reached completion point under the heavily indebted poor countries initiative (HIPC), which aims to reduce external debt burdens of the most heavily indebted poor countries. This resulted in a full cancellation of Zambia's remaining bilateral debt owed to the UK.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Legal Costs: Criminal Proceedings

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Solicitor-General what recent discussions she has had with the Law Society and the Bar Council on proposals to change levels of remuneration for prosecuting lawyers in the criminal courts. [316146]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), superintended by the Attorney-General, has responsibility for negotiating any changes to levels of remuneration for lawyers prosecuting its cases in criminal courts.

CPS officials meet with the Remuneration Committee of the Bar Council to discuss remuneration arrangements for self-employed barrister advocates and they last met on 1 February 2010. At that meeting CPS officials discussed with the Remuneration Committee options for re-structuring the CPS graduated fee scheme.

The CPS does not engage in discussions with the Law Society regarding remuneration for prosecuting lawyers because few solicitor advocates are instructed by CPS and when they are arrangements will mirror those for self-employed barristers.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated to adult *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy in Hemsworth constituency since 1997. [316622]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) provides funding to further education (FE) colleges and training providers to support adults (aged 19 and older) undertaking courses in literacy, numeracy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL). Since the launch of the Skills for Life Strategy in 2001, it is estimated that £5 billion has been invested in Skills for Life provision (for those aged 16 and older) up until 2008. Nearly six million adults (aged 19 and older) across England have taken courses to improve their literacy, language and numeracy skills since 2001.

LSC funding is not allocated at the local authority level. Planned investment in Skills for Life at a national level is based on estimated levels of activity for an academic year. The amount of funding routed through Adult Learner Responsive and Train to Gain routes for Skills for Life is estimated at nearly £600 million for 2008-09 financial year and around £630 million for 2009-10 financial year, as set out in the Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 (November 2009). The actual amount spent on Skills for Life literacy and numeracy provision will depend on learner and employer demand.

### Business: Government Assistance

**David Mundell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many loans each participating bank has made under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme *(a)* overall and *(b)* to businesses registered in Scotland; [315311]

(2) how much has been lent by each participating bank under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme *(a)* in total and *(b)* to businesses registered in Scotland. [315381]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As of 27 January 2010, 6,456 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £647.41 million. Of which, in Scotland, 470 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £62.38 million.

Due to confidentiality it is not broken down by bank.

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been provided to Early Growth Funds in each year since their introduction. [315351]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 3 February 2010]*: The Early Growth Fund Programme (EGF) was launched in 2002-03 when my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State entered into agreements to provide up to £31.5 million of funding to EGFs. The total programme expenditure to date is £30.17 million.

Details of the sums drawn down are included in the following table:

| | *Drawn down (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 644,109.59 |
| 2003-04 | 4,332,661.00 |
| 2004-05 | 5,383,908.00 |
| 2005-06 | 6,645,079.42 |
| 2006-07 | 5,913,754.00 |
| 2007-08 | 4,127,705.21 |
| 2008-09 | 2,654,192.86 |
| 2009-10 (to date) | 467,626.70 |
| Total | 30,169,036.78 |

### Business: Lancashire

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage business investment in Morecambe and Lunesdale. [311301]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) has taken a number of steps to encourage business investment in Morecambe and Lunesdale. These include the wide range of support available within the "Solutions for Business" portfolio, as well as specific measures to encourage tourism such as £300,000 for a feasibility study to bring the Winter Gardens back into use and a £4 million contribution towards the refurbishment of the iconic Midland Hotel, revitalising the tourist economy. Heysham is also one of the 10 sites under consideration for a new power station under the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement.

### Business: Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance the South West Regional Development Agency has provided to businesses in Stroud constituency during the economic downturn. [315884]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Data are not broken down by parliamentary constituency, but is available at local authority level.

The SW Regional Development Agency (RDA) provides the core funding for the SW Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) and Business Link and leads the regional co-ordination of eight Area Action Forces in the South West providing co-ordinated public sector support to companies affected by the recession.

The Area Action Force for Gloucestershire helped 108 companies between December 2008 and 8 January 2010 including 14 based in the Stroud district. Support ranged from help accessing training provision, redundancy support for staff, Job Fairs for staff and referrals to Business Link, SW MAS and other organisations.

Business Link engaged with 2,147 businesses in the Stroud District (10,605 across Gloucestershire) in 2009 of which 197 received intensive assistance. In addition, 220 businesses from the Stroud district attended Business Link Events during that period. The South West MAS helped 99 companies in Gloucestershire between October 2008 and the end of 2009 of which 26 are located in the Stroud district. These companies all received 'Level 2' intervention, which consists of a face to face business review with a MAS specialist and additional in-depth support if required.

### Copyright: Music

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what account his Department took of the *(a)* options appraisal section and *(b)* generating and short-listing policy option section of its impact assessment toolkit when designing the consultation on the requirement to pay royalties for playing recorded and broadcast music by charitable and not-for-profit organisations. [312476]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: The Department fully complied with all impact assessment requirements and worked with the Better Regulation Executive when generating and shortlisting policy options.

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed changes to the music licensing system on charities and other not-for-profit groups in *(a)* Staffordshire Moorlands constituency and *(b)* the West Midlands. [312477]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: The Government did not make any specific assessment of the effects on *(a)* Staffordshire Moorlands constituency or *(b)* the West Midlands. However, as part of our consultation process we commissioned a final impact assessment from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This assessment estimated the impact on groups across the UK which would be affected. It was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government Response and a summary was placed in the House Library.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department made use of the generating and shortlisting policy options section of its impact assessment toolkit in its consultation on the requirement for the payment of royalties for playing recorded and broadcast music by charitable and not-for-profit organisations. [312575]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* My Department fully complied with all impact assessment requirements and worked with the Better Regulation Executive when generating and shortlisting policy options.

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed changes to the music licence system on care homes. [312576]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* In practice the proposed changes will have no effect on the charging of licences for playing broadcast or recorded music in care homes. Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) regards most such use by residents, including use in communal lounges, as equivalent to listening to music or the radio/television in one's own home.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations and individuals responded to the Intellectual Property Office's consultation on copyright exemptions for public performance of recorded music. [315261]

**Mr. Lammy:** We received a wide variety of responses regarding the consultation on copyright exemptions. A copy of the summary of responses to the consultation ('Changes to Exemptions from Public Performance Rights in Sound Recordings and Performers' Rights Consultation, Summary of Responses') was placed on the website of the Intellectual Property Office in March 2009 and it is currently available at:

www.ipo.gov.uk

I am also placing the summary to the consultation in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of each written response to the Intellectual Property Office's consultation on copyright exemptions for public performance of recorded music. [315271]

**Mr. Lammy:** A copy of the summary of responses to the consultation ('Changes to Exemptions from Public Performance Rights in Sound Recordings and Performers' Rights Consultation, Summary of Responses') was placed on the website of the Intellectual Property Office in March 2009 and it is currently available at:

www.ipo.gov.uk

I am also placing the summary to the consultation in the Library of the House. A list of respondees to the consultation is detailed at Annex A of the summary. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of an individual response to the consultation should contact the relevant organisation directly.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312823]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) was formed through a machinery of government change that occurred in June 2009. BIS was created by merging the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). DIUS and BERR were themselves created as part of a machinery of government change in June 2007. This means that this Department currently has two legacy structures operating alongside each other. The following information shows the layers of management that existed within each of the former Departments that were merged to create BIS.

*BERR*

Senior civil service
Grade 6
Grade 7
Senior executive officer (SEO)
Higher executive officer (HEO)
Executive officer (EO)
Administrative officer (AO)
Administrative assistant (AA)

*DIUS*

Senior civil service
Grade 6
Grade 7
Senior executive officer (SEO)
Higher executive officer (HEO)
Executive officer (EO)
Executive assistant (EA)

BERR operated with seven layers of management below the SCS while DIUS had one less because the AO and AA grades had been combined to create a single EA grade.

The following table shows the headcount and the expenditure on salaries and the associated employment costs broken down by grade as published by the Office for National Statistics which combines some of the levels of management.

| | *BERR* | | *DIUS* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Headcount* | *Employment costs (£)* | *Headcount* | *Employment costs (£)* |
| SCS | 180 | 15,189,100 | 80 | 6,729,700 |
| Grade 6 and 7 | 870 | 44,784,900 | 290 | 14,719,300 |
| HEO and SEO | 1,130 | 35,832,700 | 350 | 11,238,000 |
| EO | 510 | 12,326,900 | 130 | 3,123,300 |
| AA/AO/EA | 380 | 7,588,200 | 60 | 1,166,700 |

The figures quoted only cover the core BIS Department. The central Department does not hold this information for our Executive agencies.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's Executive agencies and they will respond directly to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 29 January 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 19 January 2010, 312823, to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There are eight layers of staff in Companies House identified by grade. For the financial year ending 31 March 2009 the number of officials, amount spent on salaries and associated employment costs for each grade are as follows.

| *Grades* | *Number of officials (full-time equivalents)* | *Total salaries (£000) (with associated costs)* |
|---|---|---|
| SCS2 | 1 | 154 |
| SCS1 | 3 | 331 |
| G | 12 | 1,149 |
| F | 18 | 1,103 |
| E | 42 | 2,149 |
| D | 101 | 4,304 |
| C | 264 | 8,663 |
| B | 483 | 12,554 |
| A | 137 | 2,739 |

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 21 January 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 19th January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office figures are for 2008/09 (pay costs include pay, NI and superannuation) and show the number of full time equivalents (FTE).

| *Grade* | *FTE* | *Pay cost (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Director | 9.58 | 953 |
| Div Dir | 4.00 | 440 |
| Dep Dir | 14.01 | 1,384 |
| D1 | 7.15 | 734 |
| C2 | 160.88 | 10,799 |
| C1 | 109.58 | 4.987 |
| B3 | 89.41 | 3,655 |
| B2 | 124.06 | 4,270 |
| B1 | 106.73 | 2,754 |

This includes over 200 specialist examiners (mainly C2, C1 & B2) and some other staff who are in management grades but generally do not have management responsibilities. Similarly most staff management chains will not include all the layers above.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 1 February 2010:*

I am replying in respect of the National Measurement Office to your question to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available.

Within this Agency, there are five levels, in the sense of Grades, at which managerial responsibilities can be exercised. These are: Senior Civil Servant (myself), Grade 6 (four staff currently in post), Grade 7 (10 staff), Senior Executive Officer (5 staff) and Higher Executive officer (2 managers at this level).

Managerial responsibility is only one of the factors taken into account when deciding on the grading of a post and there are therefore a couple of Grade 7s and several SEOs who are not managers, in so far as they do not have other members of staff reporting directly to them. In addition the vast majority of HEO staff do not carry out managerial functions.

In practice NMO operates flat structures, which means that it is very unusual to operate with all five of the above mentioned levels. Structures also differ according to the nature of the work—management spans are much wider in the laboratories, for instance, than they are in policy areas. At present, I have 7 direct reports; there is one layer of management between myself and 19 staff; two levels of management in the case of 28 staff; and three levels of management in the case of 11 staff. In only four cases are there four layers of management/supervision between myself and employees. The Agency currently has 66 staff in post. Please note that these do not include vacancies and are expressed in terms of individuals, not Full Time Equivalents.

The last complete year for which audited financial information is available is 2008/09, which was before the shape of the agency was significantly altered with the transfer to us of responsibility for the National Measurement System and the Teddington Estate. I regret, therefore, that meaningful information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, we estimate that of the current salary bill of approximately £3.1m (ie the annualised staff costs of those in post at the present time) the salaries of those whose duties include some managerial responsibilities amount to approximately £1.6m.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 2 February 2010:*

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available.

The Insolvency Service has 6 layers of management reporting, and the number of staff within each layer is shown in the table below based on full-time equivalent staff numbers. The costs shown are based on salary, superannuation and national insurance contributions projected annually from December 2009's payroll. However, not all B1-C2 grade staff are managers, and the number of managers at each of these grades could only be established at a disproportionate cost.

| *Grade* | *Number* | *Grade* | *Cost of all staff in grade (£)* | *Cost of managers in grade (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B1 | 306 | B1 (EO) | 8,485,968 | n/a |
| B2 | 131 | B2 (HEO) | 4,576,896 | n/a |
| C1 | 52 | C1 (SEO) | 2,499,156 | n/a |
| C2 | 291 | C2 (SEO) | 15,913,908 | n/a |
| D2 | 94 | D2 (G7) | 6,631,248 | 6,631,248 |
| D3 | 18 | D3 (G6) | 1,675,164 | 1,675,164 |
| Total | 892 | Total | 39,782,340 | |

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305545]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department spent £1,162,044 on entertainment between 1 December 2008 and 30 November. There are no separate figures on alcohol expenditure.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated February 2010:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and (b) its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months?

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has spent (i) £1,900 on alcohol and (ii) £5,800 on entertainment in the last 12 months from December 2008 to November 2009.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated February 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 4 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the last 12 months, the National Measurement Office spent £6,020.54 on entertainment, mainly in hosting meals for overseas visitors and providing catering for working groups and similar functions held outside the office. Of this, £593.45 was spent on alcohol.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated February 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 4 December 2009, UIN 305545, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the last twelve months Companies House has spent £2,528 on entertainment. Details of the amount spent on alcohol is not kept separately but was minimal.

*Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated February 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 04 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent £1,400 on alcohol mainly at programme launches and gifts for other IP Offices. The agency spent £36,000 on entertainment mainly on refreshments and food for events and meetings.

## Departmental Written Questions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1094W, on departmental written questions; by what mechanism his Department monitors its responses to parliamentary questions; what its target time is for responses; and how its performance against that target is measured. [316508]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department aims to answer ordinary written parliamentary questions within five sitting days of tabling and provide substantive replies to named day parliamentary questions on the date specified by the Member. Monthly statistics are being produced in this session within the Department to monitor performance against these targets.

## English Language: Immigrants

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1394W, on English language; immigrants, how many places were available on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for immigrants in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [316370]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 1363W.

Information is not available on the number of places for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses. Providers ensure adequate places are made available to support local demand.

Information on the number of immigrants enrolling on courses is not available.

We do, however, publish the number of Learning and Skills Council funded learners participating on a skills for life ESOL course in each academic year. Information for academic years 2005/06 to 2008/09 (provisional) was published in a Statistical First Release (SFR):

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

This information is also shown in the following table 1.

*Table 1: Participation on LSC-funded ESOL courses, 2005/06 to 2008/09 (provisional)*

| | *Learner participation* |
|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 266,600 |
| 2006/07 | 243,900 |
| 2007/08 | 217,800 |
| 2008/09[1] (provisional) | 210,200 |

[1] FE and train to gain figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards.

More information on demand led funding is available at:

http://lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/demand-led-funding.htm

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

*Source:*

Individualised learner record

## Enterprise UK: Finance

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* total budget and *(b)* staffing cost was of each regional office of Enterprise UK in financial years (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09; what the equivalent figures are for each such office in financial year 2009-10 to date; and if he will make a statement. [316338]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* Enterprise UK developed its network of regional hubs positioned in geographical areas with below average enterprise activity to provide additional support at a local and regional level. Enterprise UK has directed funding from its overall funding from BIS (outlined in PQ 2009/1257) as shown in the following tables:

*Table 1: Cost of individual Enterprise UK regional hubs*

£

| *Region/financial year* | *Total budget* | *Staff cost* |
|---|---|---|
| *East of England* | | |
| 2006-07 | 129,212 | 69,290 |
| 2007-08 | 191,744 | 94,204 |
| 2008-09 | 124,105 | 95,538 |
| 2009-10[1] | 84,556 | 69,598 |
| *North East* | | |
| 2006-07 | — | — |
| 2007-08 | 76,583 | 55,015 |
| 2008-09 | 89,683 | 61,473 |
| 2009-10[1] | 48,654 | 39,968 |
| *North West* | | |
| 2006-07 | 144,449 | 100,075 |
| 2007-08 | 237,023 | 156,738 |
| 2008-09 | 158,625 | 113,637 |
| 2009-10[1] | 105,343 | 84,117 |

*Table 1: Cost of individual Enterprise UK regional hubs*

£

| Region/financial year | Total budget | Staff cost |
|---|---|---|
| *West Midlands* | | |
| 2006-07 | 186,731 | 53,773 |
| 2007-08 | 234,988 | 84,289 |
| 2008-09 | 107,988 | 60,296 |
| 2009-10[1] | 54,486 | 40,556 |
| *Yorkshire and Humber* | | |
| 2006-07 | 121,364 | 73,284 |
| 2007-08 | 203,207 | 139,079 |
| 2008-09 | 148,511 | 103,179 |
| 2009-10[1] | 95,949 | 72,999 |

[1] Figures from April to December 2009.

*Table 2: Cost of Enterprise UK regional hub network*

£

| Financial year | Total budget | Staff cost |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 581,812 | 296,422 |
| 2007-08 | 943,545 | 529,325 |
| 2008-09 | 628,912 | 434,123 |
| 2009-10[1] | 388,993 | 307,238 |

[1] Figures from April to December 2009.

Each hub works closely with other local organisations to avoid duplication and increase additionality. 2009/10 conservative estimates for in-kind support put the hub network's impact in financial terms at circa £218,000 with a further £337,500 awarded as direct cash contributions to further expand the work of the regional teams in particular areas. Independent evaluation from the university of Glasgow found that Enterprise UK hubs 'had a substantial impact' within their target areas, 'considerable local influence', and 'largely offset what would otherwise have been a declining local enterprise culture'.

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what Enterprise UK's *(a)* total budget and *(b)* staffing cost was in financial years (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07, (iv) 2007-08 and (v) 2008-09; what it has been in each such case in financial year 2009-10 to date; and if he will make a statement. [316339]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The information is as follows:

| Financial year | Total budget (£) | Staff cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 763,000 | 586,261 |
| 2005-06 | 2,000,000 | 570,916 |
| 2006-07 | 5,000,000 | 1,741,552 |
| 2007-08 | 6,000,000 | 2,498,013 |
| 2008-09 | 5,000,000 | 2,459,037 |
| 2009-10[1] | 3,650,000 | 1,810,410 |

[1] Figures from April to December 2009.

Enterprise UK was set up as a campaigning organisation in 2004 by the Confederation of British Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Institute of Directors and the British Chambers of Commerce, and continues to be led by their Directors General. Enterprise UK is funded by BIS to promote entrepreneurship in the UK, particularly amongst audiences that have characteristically strong attitudes towards starting businesses but have a below average proportion who actually do, such as young people, women and particular black and minority ethnic groups.

Programmes funded by BIS and led by Enterprise UK include Global Entrepreneurship Week, the Make Your Mark campaign and the Enterprising Young Brits and Enterprising Britain competitions. The organisation is able to leverage substantial in kind support to supplement its funding; for example in 2008-09 this included £2.3 million worth of time spent by leading UK entrepreneurs who act as ambassadors and mentors and £7.25 million media coverage. Funding for Enterprise UK from BIS has been reduced over the past two years, as the organisation has sought other funding streams and increased private sector collaboration for delivery of its projects.

## Higher Education: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will respond to matters concerning tuition fees raised by students of Warwick and Coventry universities at a meeting in January 2010. [316578]

**Mr. Lammy:** A letter was sent on 8 February to follow up the issues raised at our meeting in January 2010.

## Internet

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what targets the Government have to reduce digital exclusion by giving people access to online services. [315319]

**Mr. Timms:** Government have in place a number of targets to reduce digital exclusion by giving people access to online services.

1. Through the Smarter Government programme, Government's aim is to have 100 per cent. of its services online by 2014. We also announced in November, as part of Smarter Government, that we will be giving UK online centres a further £30 million to get one million people online.

2. Starting in 2010, the Government's Home Access programme (£300 million), children at key stages 2 and 3 who are eligible for free school meals will also be eligible for a home access grant. This will provide a free computer and one year's internet use. The aim is to help over 270,000 households by March 2011.

3. We are working closely with Martha Lane Fox, the champion for digital inclusion, who is also a member of the consortium for the promotion of digital participation through her "Race Online 2012" campaign, for six million people who are both digitally and socially excluded to get online by 2012.

4. The national plan for digital participation which will be launched in March will announce further figures to encourage the remaining 30 per cent. of the population to get online.

5. Accessibility is a key issue for this Government. Websites owned by central Government Departments must be Double-A conformant by December 2009. This includes websites due to converge on Directgov or BusinessLink, unless convergence is scheduled before this date. Websites owned by central Government Executive Agencies and non-departmental public bodies must conform by March 2011.

## Licensing: Music

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with the Intellectual Property Office on the likely effect on charities and other not-for-profit groups of the proposed changes to the music licence system. [311767]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Intellectual Property Office is part of my Department, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. There are regular internal discussions on this subject.

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on charities and other not-for-profit groups of the proposed changes to the music licence system. [311768]

**Mr. Lammy:** It is essential that third sector organisations are protected from excessive burdens and experience minimal disruption as they continue to provide their vital services. At the same time we value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. We must find a balance which is fair to both sides and is consistent with EU and international law.

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from charities and other not-for-profit groups on the likely effect on them of proposed changes to the music licence system. [311769]

**Mr. Lammy:** Since publication of the Government response to the consultation on changes to exemptions from public performance rights in sound recordings and performers' rights on 12 November 2009, I have received a large number of representations from charities and other not-for-profit groups through their MPs. My officials have met with the Association of Charity Shops and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. They have also remained in contact with other representatives of charities and other not-for-profit groups. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* an equality impact assessment and *(b)* a small firms assessment has been made of the effects of abolishing the Phonographic Performance Limited licence exemption for charities and voluntary groups. [315268]

**Mr. Lammy:** Specific impact tests on the effect of repealing the current charitable exceptions have been conducted in relation to race, disability and gender equality. A small firms assessment was deemed unnecessary. The results of these tests are contained in the impact assessment summary accompanying the Government response to the Music Licensing Review ('Government Response to the Consultation on Changes to Exemptions from Public Performance Rights in Sound Recordings and Performers' Rights'). This was published on 12 November 2009 and the documents were placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to the consultation on changes to exemptions from public performance rights in sound recordings and performers' rights. [315270]

**Mr. Lammy:** A copy of the summary of responses to the consultation ("Changes to Exemptions from Public Performance Rights in Sound Recordings and Performers' Rights Consultation, Summary of Responses') was placed on the website of the Intellectual Property Office in March 2009 and it is currently available at:

www.ipo.gov.uk

I am also placing the summary to the consultation in the Library of the House. A list of respondees to the consultation is detailed at Annex A of the summary. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of an individual response to the consultation should contact the relevant organisation directly.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to which parts of the UK the proposed changes by the Intellectual Property Office to performance rights licence exemptions for not-for-profit groups will apply. [315307]

**Mr. Lammy:** The current not-for-profit exemptions contained in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 apply to England and Wales; Scotland and Northern Ireland. Any change to those exemptions will apply to those parts of the UK.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* charities and *(b)* other not-for-profit organisations of the proposed changes to music licensing legislation, with particular reference to the West Midlands. [313944]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government did not undertake any region by region assessment and therefore West Midlands was not considered on an individual basis. However, as part of the consultation process a final impact assessment was commissioned from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This assessment estimated the impact on groups across the UK which would be affected. A shortened and updated form was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government response which was placed in the Library of the House. This contains a weblink to the full Europe Economics impact assessment.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on village halls of the proposed changes to music licensing legislation. [313945]

**Mr. Lammy:** As part of the Government's consultation process on the proposed changes to the music licensing regime, a final impact assessment was commissioned from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This specifically estimated the effects of the proposed changes on rural halls. The Government's response to the music licensing consultation, which was published on 12 November 2009, contained a summary of Europe Economics' impact assessment. The response and the accompanying summary were placed in the Library of the House.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and organisations concerned. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on charities and other not-for-profit organisations in Greater London of proposed changes to public performance rights under the music licensing system. [311735]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* The Government did not make any specific assessment of the effects on organisations in Greater London. However, as part of our consultation process we commissioned a final impact assessment from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This assessment estimated the impact on groups across the UK which would be affected. It was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government Response and a summary was placed in the House Library.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration was given to maintaining the status quo in the Government's response to the consultation on the requirement to pay royalties for playing recorded and broadcast music by charitable and not for profit organisations amending the Copyright Designs and Patent Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [311938]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* The Government want a copyright system which achieves the correct balance between the interests of all parties. It is essential that third sector organisations are protected from excessive burdens and experience minimal disruption as they continue to provide their vital services. We must find a balance which is fair to both sides and is consistent with EU and international law.

The Government consider the current exemptions do not draw the correct balance between the interests of right holders and charitable and not-for-profit organisations. It is for this reason the maintenance of the status quo was not consulted on as an option for reforming the current system of exemptions. At present, if charities wish to play recorded or broadcast music they will have to pay for a licence from the Performing Rights Society (PRS for Music), which provides remuneration to songwriters and music publishers. But third sector organisations are exempt under UK law from requiring a PPL licence, which provides remuneration to performers and record labels, if certain conditions are met. The proposed repeal means that charities will now pay performers and record companies for the public playing of their recorded or broadcast music, in the same way as they already pay songwriters and music publishers.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on youth clubs of proposed changes to the music licensing system; and if he will make a statement. [311939]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* The Government did not make any specific assessment of the effects on youth clubs. However, as part of our consultation process we commissioned a final impact assessment from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This assessment estimated the impact on broader classifications which encompassed youth clubs. It was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government response and a summary was placed in the House Library.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with Phonographic Performance Limited on the effects on charities and other not for profit groups of the proposed changes to the music licensing system. [312070]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* I and my officials hold regular discussions with Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) about the proposed changes.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on charity shops of the proposed changes to the music licensing system. [312075]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* As part of the Government's consultation process we commissioned a final impact assessment from independent consultants, Europe Economics which specifically estimated the effects on charity shops. It was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government Response and a summary was placed in the House Library.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect on charities and voluntary groups of changes to exemptions from public performance rights in sound recordings and performers' rights. [312267]

**Mr. Lammy:** The most recent assessment was undertaken as part of our consultation process in 2009. We commissioned a final impact assessment from independent consultants, Europe Economics. It was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government Response and a summary was placed in the House Library.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) and the organisations concerned. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. The Government want to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the likely effects on *(a)* charities and *(b)* other not-for-profit organisations in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England of the proposed changes to music licensing legislation. [314224]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government did not undertake any region by region or country by country assessment and therefore neither (i) Lancashire nor (ii) England were considered on an individual basis. However, as part of the consultation process a final impact assessment was commissioned from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This assessment estimated the impact on groups across the UK which would be affected. A shortened and updated form was published on 12 November 2009 with the Government response which was placed in the Library of the House. This contains a weblink to the full Europe Economics impact assessment.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. The Government wants to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on village halls of the proposed changes to the music licensing regime. [314225]

**Mr. Lammy:** As part of the Government's consultation process on the proposed changes to the music licensing regime, a final impact assessment was commissioned from independent consultants, Europe Economics. This specifically estimated the effects of the proposed changes on rural halls. The Government's response to the music licensing consultation, which was published on 12 November 2009, contained a summary of Europe Economics' impact assessment. The response and the accompanying summary were placed in the Library of the House.

The exact impact will be determined by the outcome of consultations between Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) and organisations concerned on licence fee levels. As part of this process it is essential that PPL work with the third sector to agree reasonable and appropriate tariffs. We value the contribution musical performers make to the economic and cultural success of our country. We have got to make sure that they are rewarded for their efforts so they can continue creating. The Government wants to ensure that discussions between PPL and the third sector are facilitated so that the outcome is satisfactory for all concerned. A mutually agreed solution is vital if the needs of both PPL members and the third sector are to be met. I remain confident that this will be possible.

## Non-profit Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which regional development agencies (RDAs) fund social enterprise networks in each county; how much each regional development agency has allocated to such networks in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [315098]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** All nine Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have funded a regional social enterprise network covering all counties. It will be for individual Regional Development Agencies to consider what funding will be allocated to social enterprise in the future. The following table illustrates the amount of funding each RDA has allocated to social enterprise networks in their region in the last five financial years. RDAs also fund projects which may indirectly support social enterprise networks: we are unable to quantify this support and therefore it is not included in the data.

| | | | | | *Funding (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *RDA* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| AWM | 0 | 0 | 11 | 318 | 253 |
| EEDA | 62 | 170 | 175 | 160 | 160 |
| EMDA | 1036 | 1161 | 535 | 665 | 611 |
| LDA | 64 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 207 |
| NWDA[1] | 683 | 945 | 1341 | 737 | 534 |
| ONE | 171 | 200 | 190 | 142 | 0 |
| SEEDA | 0 | 158 | 179 | 145 | 75 |
| South West RDA | 288 | 245 | 520 | 398 | 278 |
| Yorkshire Forward | 0 | 0 | 26 | 89 | 53 |

[1] NWDA funding for social enterprise programmes is not solely for general network support but includes specifically contracted services and outputs, such as developing procurement opportunities, start ups and growth, developing management skills, training support and promoting awareness of the benefits of social enterprise. It is not possible to isolate the costs of each component. Some programmes include other income such as the European Regional Development Fund.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills by what mechanisms his Department monitors the *(a)* performance and *(b)* value for money of regional development agencies in assisting social enterprises. [315099]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The RDAs produce corporate plans setting out corporate objectives and expenditure plans across all major activities including social enterprise. Progress against these plans is subsequently reviewed and reported in the RDA's annual report and accounts. RDAs are also required to undertake impact evaluations of their major projects. That work was recently collected together in a report "Impact of RDA Spending" carried out on the Department's behalf by PriceWaterhouseCoopers which provided an overall assessment of RDAs' effectiveness. The report concluded that RDA expenditure produced economic benefits in all regions.

The Office of the Third Sector's Social Enterprise Action Plan announced £5.9 million for the regional development agencies to March 2011 to improve social enterprise support via Business Link. A formal evaluation of the programme by the Office of the Third Sector has begun, with BIS involvement, and will provide a mechanism to share results across the country, with central Government and with the sector. A report on the early stages of the programme has recently been published on the OTS website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/third_sector/assets/se_action_plan_2006.pdf

## Regional Development Agencies: Offices

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has given to regional development agencies on opening offices overseas. [314961]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In the case of the eight English RDAs outside London, where they maintain representation overseas to achieve regional priorities, those have been set by consulting with stakeholders and partners on the Regional Economic Strategy and Corporate Plans. Each agency is required to seek and obtain prior ministerial approval through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) for any proposal to extend or create new overseas offices involved in inward investment or trade promotion activities.

On inward investment RDAs have agreed to observe guidance on joint activity planning, evaluation and information sharing with UKTI's overseas teams and use of a common UK brand. This guidance also encourages them to explore opportunities for co-location and joint management by UKTI's overseas teams.

On trade promotion, as agreed by RDA chairs and Ministers in 2003, UKTI continues to operate as the international trade arm of the RDAs.

## Regional European Offices

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1156W, on regional European offices: expenditure, what the postal address is of each regional European office in *(a)* Brussels and *(b)* Strasbourg; how many staff work at each; and how much each received from the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [314977]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are offices for each region in Brussels which are funded by a wide range of regional stakeholders such as local authorities, and other public and private sector organisations. Records on funding are not centrally held. There are no regional offices in Strasbourg.

The following table shows postal addresses of each regional European office in Brussels and staff employed:

| *Title* | *Postal address* | *Number of staff (FTEs)* |
|---|---|---|
| East of England Brussels Office | Rue du Trône 4, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium | 4.6 |
| England's East Midlands European Office | Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28, Brussels 1040, Belguim | 5 |
| London's European Office | Rue du Trône 108, 1050 Brussels, Belgium | 4 |
| North East England in Europe | Coulevard St Michel 80, 1040 Brussels, Belgium | 4 |
| North West Brussels Office | Rue du Marteau 21, Brussels B-1000, Belgium | 2 |

| *Title* | *Postal address* | *Number of staff (FTEs)* |
|---|---|---|
| South East England Brussels Office | Rue du Commerce 45 1000 Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium | 2 |
| South West UK in Europe Brussels Office | 11 Rond Point Schuman 1040 Brussels, Belgium | [1]6 |
| West Midlands in Europe Office | Avenue d'Auderghem, 22-28<br>Oudergemselaan, 22-28<br>B-1040 Brussels Belgium | 8 |
| Yorkshireurope | Rue de Commerce, 45,<br>B-1000 Brussels, Belgium | [2]— |

[1] Staff based in the region.

[2] Yorkshire Forward manages this regional representation office in Brussels on behalf of partners in the region. The office moved from premises on Avenue de Cortenbergh to a more cost-effective, shared office on 1 May 2009. No staff were employed in the office at the end of the financial year 2008-09 however there were three staff employed for a significant period during the financial year.

## Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much rock salt for use on roads was exported from the UK between 1 November 2009 and 18 January 2010. [316893]

**Ian Lucas:** Trade data are available on a monthly basis. The latest HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics cover November 2009. The figures for salt are shown in the following table.

| | *Tonnes* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *November 2009* | |
| *CN codes* | *Exports* | *Imports* |
| 2501: Salt including table salt and denatured salt, pure sodium chloride whether or not in aqueous solution, sea water | 28,728 | 15,280 |
| *Of which:* | | |
| 25010010: Sea water and salt liquors | 504 | 425 |
| 25010031: Common salt etc. for chemical transformation (separation of sodium from chlorine) for the manufacture of other products | 21 | 96 |
| 25010051: Common salt denatured or for industrial uses, other than preservation or preparation of foodstuffs for human or animal consumption | 13,275 | 10,439 |
| 25010091: Common salt etc., other than for chemical, denatured or industrial uses, salt suitable for human consumption | 5,665 | 2,509 |
| 25010099: Common salt etc., other than for chemical, denatured or industrial uses, other than salt suitable for human consumption | 9,263 | 1,811 |

## Shop Direct: Burnley

**Kitty Ussher:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to protect Shop Direct workers facing possible redundancy in Burnley. [316604]

**Ian Lucas:** Job Centre Plus, Burnley council and the NWDA are working with Shop Direct to identify employment and re-training opportunities for staff affected by the confirmed closure of the Burnley call centre. Each displaced member of staff will be offered outplacement services by a combination of Shop Direct and Job Centre Plus, to assist in seeking new employment, pursuing potential retraining opportunities and assessing other alternatives such as early retirement. In addition, it is understood that staff will be eligible to apply for newly created posts at nearby call centres in Preston and Bolton.

**Kitty Ussher:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if officials of his Department will meet representatives of Shop Direct to discuss measures to protect jobs at the Burnley site. [316605]

**Ian Lucas:** The North West Development Agency (NWDA) represented BIS at a meeting with Shop Direct on 3 February, which confirmed the Burnley call centre will close. The NWDA will represent BIS at any further meetings with the company, following confidential discussions between Shop Direct and GMB and USDAW on the statutory consultation process.

## Vocational Training: Hemsworth

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of women in Hemsworth constituency who have visited an information and communications technology training centre in order to gain return to work skills in each year since 1997. [316602]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information is not available on the number of learners who have visited an ICT training centre.

The following table shows participation by females in LSC-funded learning, within the information and communications technology (ICT) sector subject area. Information is given from 2005/06 onwards, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

*Females on courses in the information and communications technology sector subject area, Hemsworth parliamentary constituency*

| | *Further education enrolments* | *Apprenticeship starts* | *Train to Gain starts* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 1,860 | — | — |
| 2006/07 | 1,340 | — | — |
| 2007/08 | 1,290 | — | — |
| 2008/09[1] (Provisional) | 1,290 | 10 | 30 |

[1] FE and Train to Gain figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand-led funding is available at:
http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/demand-led-funding.htm

*Notes:*

1. FE enrolment figures for 2008/09 are provisional. Other figures are final.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. '—' indicates a figure of less than five.
4. Figures for Hemsworth parliamentary constituency are based upon home postcode of the learner.
5. Figures for Further Education include further education, adult and community learning, University for Industry.
6. Figures for further education are based on aims/enrolments—an aim will be counted in every year for which a learner is participating on that course. A learner may participate on more than one aim.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 2 February 2010*

## OLYMPICS

### London 2012 (Multi-Media Coverage)

4. **Richard Ottaway** (Croydon, South) (Con): What representations she has received on the provision of multi-media coverage of the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [310882]

*[Official Report, 18 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 20.]*

*Letter of correction from Tessa Jowell:*

The oral answer given to the hon. Member for Croydon, South (Richard Ottaway) on 18 January 2010 included a line on the London 2012 Games being the first games to be filmed wholly in high-definition standards. However, the Beijing Games were in fact the first Games to be filmed in high-definition standards.

The revised answer is as follows:

**Tessa Jowell:** As with Beijing these Games will be filmed wholly in high-definition standards. There will be access to information via additional channels and mobile devices, ensuring the Games are accessible to everyone. The International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee are responsible for global broadcast rights of the London 2012 games via many platforms, including multi-media platforms.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Wednesday 3 February 2010*

## HEALTH

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent per capita in *(a)* England and *(b)* Buckinghamshire in each of the last three years. [302152]

*[Official Report, 30 November 2009, Vol: 501, c. 531W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr. Mike O'Brien:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs. Gillan) on 30 November 2009. I am sorry that in the table relating to per capita spend the two figures for the year 2006-07 were incorrect.

The correct answer is:

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The amount spent per capita in total in England by all primary care trusts (PCTs) and by Buckinghamshire PCT, in each of the last three years, is shown in the following table.

£

| | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 1,251 | 1,198 | 1,121 |
| England | 1,499 | 1,428 | 1,315 |

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality Bill (Access to Information)

*Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:*

The oral response given to the hon. Member for Aberdeen, South (Miss Begg) on 28 January 2010 included reference to a Braille copy of the Equality Bill.

The exchange was as follows:

**Miss Begg:** The problem is that organisations such as the Royal National Institute for Blind People feel that the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to which the Minister referred are unenforceable because access to information is classed as an auxiliary aid and service. I hope that my hon. Friend will look favourably on the suggestion that the Equality Bill needs a separate clause to make these provisions absolutely clear. Will she also confirm that trying to solve this problem by means of a judicial review would not be the way forward?

**Maria Eagle:** The requirements of the current Disability Discrimination Act are enforceable, and they can be enforced in appropriate circumstances. However, we want public authorities to take a leading role and to lead by example in providing accessible information to those with visual impairments and others. In that respect, I hope that the House authorities themselves will consider whether refusing to allow a visually impaired parliamentarian a Braille copy of a Bill is really helping that parliamentarian to do his job. Should we not be leading by example in this respect? I believe that we should be, and I hope that the House authorities will reconsider that decision.

*[Official Report, 28 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 943.]*

I would like to clarify that no Member of either House has requested a Braille copy of the Equality Bill and therefore that no such request has been refused by either House. Any impression I gave that this was the case was a result of a misunderstanding by my officials that made its way into my brief. Each House provides support for disabled Members in a variety of ways, having regard to their individual needs. The suggestion that the authorities of either House have refused requests of this kind is unfounded.

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 9 February 2010*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Disability Living Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland received the (i) mobility component, (ii) care component and (iii) both the mobility and the care components of the disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [304670]

*[Official Report, 15 December 2009, Vol. 502, c. 1012-14W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr. Jonathan Shaw:*

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 15 December 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the following tables:

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 4,250 | 4,410 | 4,480 | 4,670 | 4,900 |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 670 | 690 | 730 | 760 | 790 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 300 | 320 | 320 | 340 | 360 |
| Higher care only | 60 | 60 | 70 | 90 | 80 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 570 | 590 | 610 | 640 | 670 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 690 | 740 | 770 | 800 | 870 |
| Middle care only | 150 | 150 | 140 | 140 | 160 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 420 | 430 | 420 | 450 | 480 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 340 | 360 | 380 | 400 | 410 |
| Lower care only | 250 | 270 | 260 | 290 | 320 |
| Higher mobility only | 550 | 550 | 530 | 540 | 540 |
| Lower mobility only | 250 | 260 | 240 | 240 | 240 |

*Notes:*

1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowanse, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital. If a disability living allowance customer goes into hospital or a local authority funded care home then the care component of disability living allowance will stop after 28 days although the mobility component is not affected. This means that, for example, someone with an underlying entitlement to higher rate care and higher rate mobility may only be getting paid higher rate mobility. This means that the number of people being paid the disability living allowance mobility component only may be more than the number entitled to the disability living allowance mobility component due to the non-payment of an underlying entitlement to the care component.

3. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and Government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory

*Source:*

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*Disability living allowance cases in payment for the highland local authority for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 10,190 | 10,500 | 10,730 | 11,160 | 11,640 |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 1,680 | 1,770 | 1,850 | 1,920 | 1,980 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 580 | 620 | 650 | 680 | 720 |
| Higher care only | 160 | 170 | 170 | 190 | 180 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 1,520 | 1,570 | 1,620 | 1,680 | 1,780 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 1,500 | 1,570 | 1,670 | 1,750 | 1,870 |
| Middle care only | 400 | 400 | 380 | 380 | 400 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 1,130 | 1,130 | 1,140 | 1,220 | 1,290 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 670 | 720 | 770 | 800 | 830 |
| Lower care only | 650 | 680 | 670 | 700 | 770 |
| Higher mobility only | 1,440 | 1,420 | 1,390 | 1,410 | 1,400 |
| Lower mobility only | 440 | 450 | 430 | 430 | 430 |

*Notes:*

1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. If a disability living allowance customer goes into hospital or a local authority funded care home then the care component of disability living allowance will stop after 28 days although the mobility component is not affected. This means that, for example, someone with an underlying entitlement to higher rate care and higher rate mobility may only be getting paid higher rate mobility. This means that the number of people being paid the disability living allowance mobility component only may be more than the number entitled to the disability living allowance mobility component due to the non-payment of an underlying entitlement to the care component.

3.The Highlands region is defined as the local authority of the claimant. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and Government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

*Source:*

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*Disability living allowance cases in payment in Scotland for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 301,630 | 308,590 | 315,580 | 324,810 | 334,670 |
| Higher care and higher mobility | 49,510 | 51,170 | 53,840 | 56,130 | 57,590 |
| Higher care and lower mobility | 16,020 | 16,770 | 17,710 | 18,800 | 19,900 |

*Disability living allowance cases in payment in Scotland for each of the last five years, as at May of each year*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Higher care only | 3,680 | 3,690 | 3,550 | 3,700 | 3,730 |
| Middle care and higher mobility | 48,400 | 49,460 | 51,090 | 52,640 | 53,970 |
| Middle care and lower mobility | 39,250 | 41,940 | 44,320 | 46,570 | 49,390 |
| Middle care only | 10,350 | 10,400 | 10,070 | 10,010 | 10,160 |
| Lower care and higher mobility | 37,080 | 37,350 | 37,650 | 38,310 | 39,340 |
| Lower care and lower mobility | 17,460 | 1[illegible]870 | 20,130 | 21,980 | 23,860 |
| Lower care only | 19,940 | 20,450 | 20,690 | 21,470 | 22,550 |
| Higher mobility only | 49,560 | 48,100 | 46,120 | 44,650 | 43,320 |
| Lower mobility only | 10,380 | 10,390 | 10,410 | 10,550 | 10,850 |

*Notes:*

1 Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital. If a disability living allowance customer goes into hospital or a local authority funded care home then the care component of disability living allowance will stop after 28 days although the mobility component is not affected. This means that, for example, someone with an underlying entitlement to higher rate care and higher rate mobility may only be getting paid higher rate mobility. This means that the number of people being paid the disability living allowance mobility component only may be more than the number entitled to the disability living allowance mobility component due to the non-payment of an underlying entitlement to the care component.

3. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and Government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

*Source:*

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.